

# **Community Issues Report**

*FIRST QUARTER 2005*

Meredith Corporation  
***WHNS FOX Carolina***

***04/1/05***

# **Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina**

*COMMUNITY ISSUES*  
01/1/05 – 03/31/05

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## **Consumer, Health & Safety**

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

## **Crime**

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

## **Education**

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

## **Environment**

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

## **Government**

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

## **Jobs/Economy/Growth**

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

## **Quality of Life**

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

## *Attachments*



## *Consumer, Health & Safety*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays (airs weekly)	5:30 am	BUSINESS WEEK
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DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

January 4, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

As of the new year, South Carolinians who drive without auto insurance now risk losing their licenses. "The laws as they were didn't really have any teeth," said state Rep. Bob Walker, R-Spartanburg, who is also an independent insurance agent. "You start taking away people's licenses and it will get their attention." Uninsured drivers already faced penalties including fines and losing their vehicle registrations. Last year, the state created a database to track those drivers suspected of breaking the law by driving without insurance. Under new rules that took effect last week, the most flagrant offenders risk losing their licenses for driving uninsured. Another change in the law reduces the amount of time drivers have to buy insurance after they are notified by the state that they need to do so. There used to be a 45-day grace period to get coverage. Now drivers have only 20 business days. Drivers are assessed a \$5 fine for each day their policy has lapsed. Under the old rules, when the grace period expired, drivers could have their registrations and tags revoked. Losing a license is a tougher sanction. "If you get rid of a husband's registration, the wife can then turn around and register the car under her name," Walker said. "But now we'll take their licenses away, and every time they are stopped they will be charged again and again." Insurance companies estimate one in four motorists in the state is uninsured, causing insurance premiums to rise for those with insurance. Walker said premiums for the uninsured-motorist portion of auto policies have gone from "next to nothing" to \$50-\$100 a year. With more drivers forced to buy insurance, he expects those costs to be reduced. The new database monitors motorists who cancel insurance before their policies expire. The thought is that such drivers might be trying to save money on policies and then drive with insurance cards that look valid but aren't. Such drivers will receive a letter that they need to furnish proof of insurance. Anyone who cannot do so faces fines and other penalties.

January 5, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

NASCAR wants to build a hall of fame in one of four cities, and Charlotte leaders want to land it to cement the city's claim as the center of the stock-car racing world. Charlotte, Atlanta, Kansas City and Daytona Beach, Fla. will get letters from NASCAR this week asking them to pursue the chance to host it, NASCAR vice president of licensing Mark Dyer said. They will have five months to respond. NASCAR, the private corporation that owns and operates the most popular U.S. auto-racing league, could select a site by the end of the year. "We want to feel good about it 10 years from now, rather than just have a big flashy opening and make headlines for a short time," said Dyer, who is based in NASCAR's Charlotte office. NASCAR's proposal will not include requirements about size and funding

sources, Dyer said. But NASCAR wants something as large and as attractive as the baseball, basketball and football halls of fame, all in smaller Northern cities. The motor sports sanctioning body will probably want the cities or local groups to build and operate the facility, Dyer said.

Basketball's hall of fame, in Springfield, Mass., had about 250,000 visitors last year, said president and chief executive officer John Doleva. The new museum complex cost \$45 million to build in 2002, and state and local government paid most of it, he said. Like Springfield for basketball, Charlotte and Daytona have ties to the sport's origins. Atlanta has corporate muscle. Kansas City, with a 4-year-old track, represents the newer fan base. Auto racing already has several halls of fame adjacent to NASCAR tracks, including one in Talladega, Ala., and another in Darlington, S.C. The North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame in Mooresville, about 20 miles north of Charlotte, draws 250,000 visitors per year. Many race teams have their headquarters near Charlotte, and their shops attract thousands of visitors. One racing team, Hendrick Motorsports, has 150,000 visitors a year. Republican Mayor Pat McCrory wants the Charlotte City Council to consider the NASCAR hall of fame at the same time as other cultural facilities. "You have to consider that a cultural amenity," said Cathy Bessant, chief marketing executive at Bank of America and head of the Charlotte Chamber. "The whole notion of culture being highbrow and NASCAR (as) not is wrong. The NASCAR fan and the NASCAR community is the same community that is enriched by all of the forms of culture in the marketplace." Since last spring, arts leaders have been lobbying the city for at least \$88 million worth of downtown cultural projects, including a new art museum. Later this month, a mayoral task force on cultural facilities is scheduled to suggest revenue sources, including a higher rental car tax, a targeted uptown property tax hike and a parking surcharge.

January 10, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

An overwhelming number of businesses along an Upstate highway named for a former Carolina Investors chairman convicted of securities fraud want the name of the road changed, a Pickens lawmaker says. State Sen. Larry Martin surveyed the businesses to figure out what should be done about state Highway 153, which is called the Earle Morris Highway in Anderson and Pickens County. Before the survey, Martin said he would follow the wishes of local businesses. Martin said he will announce soon what he would like to do with the name of the highway after he talks to other lawmakers, including Anderson County's newest senator, Kevin Bryant. Morris was convicted of 22 counts of securities fraud in November after a jury decided he lied to investors, telling them Carolina Investors as in good shape in the months before the company went bankrupt, leaving about 8,000 investors out more than \$275 million. Morris was sentenced to 44 months in prison, but remains free while he appeals his conviction. Martin said the results of the survey surprised him. Some businessmen said they favored a change even though it might cost them money to print new addresses in stationary or forms. "I think it's time to put this issue to rest," said Martin, R-Pickens. Last year, a resolution to take down highway signs with the name of the former lieutenant governor and comptroller general passed the House, but Martin blocked it in the Senate because Morris had not been convicted of a crime. The sponsor of that resolution, Rep. Dan Cooper, R-Piedmont, said he is glad Martin appears to have decided the signs should come down too. "It had nothing to do whether Earle was innocent or guilty. People who lost money were reminded every time they got on that road that this was his road because of those big signs," Cooper said. "If Sen. Martin wants to now completely undo the name because he's gotten a survey that said to do that, that's fine. I'll go along with it."

January 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A Hepatitis outbreak forced health investigators to shut down tattoo parlors back in the 1950's, but that's about to change. George Nelson, owner of "Body Links" says the phone is ringing off the hook at his shop in Spartanburg. It's a shop that specializes in body piercing but he says the calls aren't about the latest belly rings, he says callers want to know about tattoos. "My telephone rings three to four times a day wanting to know how much tattoos will cost and when we can start doing it," said Nelson. He opened "Body Links" about seven years ago when he moved from Florida after finding out Tattoos were illegal in South Carolina. Now he's opening a new tattoo shop and

Ashley Cox says she can't wait for the doors to open. "I want a fairy tattoo and that's what I'm going to do on my birthday. My dad is taking me and I've been waiting for one," commented Cox. You have to be 18 to get a tattoo and in the past customers would have to cross state lines to get one. "We went to Gastonia when we got my sister's and they made appointment after appointment and sometimes they got canceled and it was a waste of time and gas," commented Cox. However, before a new shop opens artists must follow regulations handed down by the State Department of Environmental Control like training and how to sterilize instruments properly. "Sterilization is important to keep everything clean keep from spreading disease and cross contamination," said Nelson. It's what Nelson says he does everything before piercing and what he plans to do in his new shop. Before owners are able to open a shop, they must first get a permit from the Department of Environmental Control and become certified. Lawmakers are expected to pass a final bill in late March.

January 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Cold temperatures and a mix of wintry weather is on the way, but there are ways you can prepare and protect your home from old man winter and you probably won't have to leave your home to do it. When the temps go down, the heat gets turned up, but you can take other steps to keep the cold out, before having to crank up the heater. It's as easy as closing your outside vents in the foundation of your home and don't forget about stopping ventilation from your roof. Lonny Kennedy with Air Pro Heating and Air says, "It stops the air from going through the top of your house, your heat will remain in your home, instead of being sucked out of your roof." Your windows and doors could also be leaking out your heat. All it takes is a blanket or towel stuffed around the opening to seal the heat in and keep the cold out. But one thing you can't control is how cold it gets outside and that could keep your heater from working correctly. "Heat pump doesn't work real well in temperatures below 20 degrees, keep an eye on it, if it doesn't work, go to your emergency heat backup," suggests Kennedy. For those of you with gas heaters, here's a simple trick that can help get the heat back in action. "Regulators on gas heaters can freeze up and not allow the gas to go through the regulator, a warm cup of water will thaw your regulator out and your gas unit will work properly again," says Kennedy. In addition to the heat, keeping those pipes from getting too cold and freezing or even bursting is another thing to consider as winter weather moves in. Now is a busy time for area plumbers, because our pipes aren't getting the attention they need, that is until they break. According to Chris Corley with Corley Plumbing and Electric, "We're just not used to it happening and when it does happen it creates a big mess." So here's what you can do, Corley says, "Make sure their foundation vents are closed so that the wind can't get in and freeze the pipes..." And keep cabinet doors open to let the heat from your home in, and keep the pipes warm. Corley says, "If you've got a fixture on an outside wall, like a sink or toilet, make sure you've got some water running in that line so you won't have any possibility of that line freezing." And speaking of freezing, Corley says, "Make sure they have their hose disconnected from their outside faucets because that's always a big problem." Basically anything you can do to protect your pipes from wind and cold will help keep you from dealing with a big mess. If you do run into a problem, call your plumber, but keep in mind you're probably not the only one having problems.

February 1, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The average cost per year for one child at Sunshine House Day Care Center in Greenville County is five thousand dollars. If the Department of Social Service's new regulations go into effect, that price could double. Parents at Sunshine House are extremely worried. Parent Julie Gray says, "No, I would not be able to afford it. I would possibly have to look at changing my work schedule, work things out with my family." Julie Gray has two children and is already paying over ten thousand dollars a year for childcare. If these new regulations go into effect, she would pay between eighteen to twenty-seven thousand dollars. The State Department of Social Services proposes the following changes to child care licensing regulations: - The implementation of a tiered rating system called the "Palmetto Stars" which would make it mandatory for all child care providers to have a bachelors degree. - Increasing the staff to child ratio. For example, right now there is one provider for every six infants. The new rule would limit five infants per provider. A lower ratio means more teachers and with more teachers being more qualified, that would also mean a higher salary. The bottom line is it would cost a lot more money to take care of

each child but Lisa Elliot, like all the parents, believes the money is secondary. "Most important thing to me is that my child comes home happy at the end of the day." Sunshine House director Michael Hoffman is worried saying, "It's a good idea but it's a huge increase - financially it would be a horrible hardship on the family." Trisha O'Quinn says she's already satisfied with the quality of care her children receive and if these regulations do go into effect, she would have only one option. "I'd quit, I'm serious, I'd quit work." These rules would not be overnight, they would be phased in over a four year period. The Governor, The South Carolina Child Care Association, and the DSS are working together to come up with a more cost effective solution. To see the state's full report, go to the web site [www.hspc.org](http://www.hspc.org) . If you have any questions, please call the South Carolina Child Care Association at 843-886-8601. And to reach the governor's office, call 803-734-2100.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

From flooding to hurricanes, even fires, anyone who has felt the effects of a natural disaster can receive some recovery help on your taxes and it comes from the Internal Revenue Service. Bob Swanger helped with cleaning up all the damage after Hurricanes Frances and Ivan stormed through Western North Carolina. He said, "we're just trying to survive, we are trying to do as much as we can, we have so much trash around, it's going stale of course and the sewage in the river has contaminated everything of course." For the hundreds of hurricane victims throughout the Carolina's, the devastation was great, destroying everything they owned. Kyle Ledford's home was destroyed, he said, "we had to take the walls out to four feet, the floors, subfloors, basefloors, everything, everything is gone, just gong. I've very devastating to see everything you have on the street corner." But now those major losses could bring a better return on your taxes, it's called the Casualty Loss deduction. According to Sue Satterfield, the Master Tax Advisor at H&R Block, "The main things are you have to know what you lost, and you have to know what your reimbursements are and we figure out the difference." The casualty losses can count as itemized deductions, those deductions reduce your taxable income and the less taxable income you have, the smaller your tax bill. Satterfield says, "Talk to your preparer, tell them what happened to you, get your expenses together, figure out what you got reimbursed and your preparer would be able to tell you right away if it would do you any good based on your adjusted gross income." Anyone living in areas declared natural disasters, you have an option to claim during the year of loss or the previous year. "That tax return has already been prepared, so what you'd be doing is adjusting your adjustable gross income in that year and the money would be available right away," says Satterfield. When it comes to your taxes, H&R Block says be on the lookout for deductions, "If there's something you can take them, then that's a deduction and that's a good thing when you can get a deduction." There is help available for people who have insurance and even if you don't have good insurance, you can still get help from the IRS. There are guidelines you must meet and it'll take extra paperwork and you must have good records. The best bet is to talk to someone who is familiar with casualty losses, you can always call H&R Block with your questions. You can find more information on filing your taxes with casualty losses at <http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/Taxes/Cutyourtaxes/P43351.asp?Printer>

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Rocking your baby to sleep in a mechanical swing can trigger a deadly attack on the child by the family dog, a coroner warns. At least two such deaths have been documented in Maryland over a four-year period, Dr. Albert Y. Chu of the state's medical examiner's office said Wednesday at a meeting in New Orleans of the American



Academy of Forensic Sciences. The back-and-forth motion may activate the dog's instinct to chase prey, he said. "Think about dogs chasing cars or tennis balls. They can't control their behavior - they just go," he said. In 2003, a 2-week-old boy was dragged from his swing and killed by the family's pit bull in Baltimore after the baby's mother left him to answer the front door. In Edgemere, Md., in 1999, a 3-month-old boy was mauled to death as his parents slept in another room. An Associated Press check of online news archives found at least one more death - that of an 18-day-old girl in Tampa, Fla., in 2000 after her mother left the room to warm a bottle for her - and at least two non-fatal attacks around the country in the past few years. In one of those cases, in Summerville, S.C., in 2003, the dog lunged for the baby and bit her in front of the child's mother. In 2000, Sabrina Williamson of Peru, Ind., had gone to the store while her husband napped in another room, about six feet away from 9-week-old Alex. She walked back in and found her husband wrestling their pit bull off the baby. They had had the dog eight years, since Alex's brother was 4. "I think it could be a key factor. Our dog had never been mean towards a child before," she said in a telephone interview. The baby's face was bitten and bloody, and his collarbone was broken and protruding from his shoulder, police said. Dr. Marianne DiPadua of University Foggia in Italy said she is not convinced that the rocking movement sets off the dog. "It's true movement can trigger an attack," she said. But she noted that dogs have also attacked babies in cribs or beds. Dr. Jane Sanders, a radiologist and a board member of the humane society in Jackson, Miss., said she planned to pass on the information to the shelter's director. Most dog attacks are by pets that have never been aggressive, she said. Catherine Mills, a Marshall, N.C., dog trainer with 25 years' experience, and John C. Wright, an animal behaviorist at Mercer University, said pets should be conditioned to ignore baby swings before a baby is put into one. "Put the swing up, leave it on without a baby in it until the dog or cat totally ignores it," Mills said. Wright suggested even more extensive "desensitization": Get the dog used to a lifelike crying doll - with a real diaper, if one is available - then the swing, then the two together. Everyone interviewed agreed on one thing: Do not leave even the most trusted pet alone with a baby. By Janet McConnaughey - Associated Press Writer

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

This weekend you can easily come across a drunk driving checkpoint where the goal is to protect the community. But one man says when he was stopped, he was nothing but embarrassed even after police cleared him of any wrongdoing. Bud Houghton has the proof he wasn't drunk. His blood alcohol test registered at .03%, well below the legal limit. But still Bud had to pay money, lose a night of sleep and miss work. Now he wants to know why. The purpose of D.U.I. checkpoints is to crackdown on drunk drivers and South Carolina needs the checkpoints. We lead the nation in the number of drunk driving deaths. Bud says, "They are a great thing and great, the reason I didn't want to talk to you guys because I don't want anything negative." But Bud says police mis-used their authority and he felt it necessary to talk to FOX Carolina and make it public. "That night I was looking for a candid camera to come out. I really was I didn't know what was happening," says Bud. That night was last Saturday at 12:45 a.m. Bud admits he had two beers after work when he was stopped at a D.U.I checkpoint near I-385 and Pleasantburg Drive. But, Bud says, he was slapped in cuffs by the State Highway Patrol after he couldn't say the alphabet or walk a straight line because of a disability. All which he explained to the officer. Bud says, "Very embarrassing. I knew I wasn't intoxicated. The officer knew I wasn't intoxicated and I begged them please don't tow my car." But they did. Bud's car was still towed and he was hauled to the Greenville County Detention Center where he passed a breathalyzer and eye test. It's what happened after that really upset him. "You have responsibility when you're an officer to do the right thing and if you make a mistake, you can't say 'oh well.' That's not okay. They should be under the same scrutiny as anyone else and they should have helped me get my car." Bud is out some convenience and \$130 cash. We asked the Highway Patrol to look at this particular incident. It didn't seem to be phased by what we told them. We're still waiting to hear back.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

An Anderson resident who filed court papers accusing attorneys of taking too much money to help recoup money for victims of the Carolina Investors bankruptcy might now have to pay a portion of those legal fees. Bob Pierce, who lost \$1.2 million when the investment firm collapsed in April 2003, could be ordered to pay for the time that the

court-appointed bankruptcy trustee has spent to defend against Pierce's complaint about legal fees. It could add up to more than \$10,000. More than 8,000 investors, many of them from the Upstate, lost \$278 million dollars after Carolina Investors collapsed nearly two years ago. Trustee Ralph McCullough hired a team of attorneys to help track down assets, liquidate what was left and sue former officials and advisers of Carolina Investors and its parent company, HomeGold. That lawsuit was settled for nearly \$42 million last summer. But Pierce - the investors representative during the lawsuit - filed a complaint in October objecting to the \$9 million to be paid to McCullough's legal team. As the trustee, McCullough's fees were approved separately by the bankruptcy court. Pierce said he has no problem with McCullough's compensation, but he said the assisting lawyers are being overpaid. McCullough says Pierce knew about the payment schedule all along. He's asking the federal court to consider making Pierce pay for the time the trustee's office spent between October and January fighting a complaint that was ultimately dismissed. Pierce is appealing that ruling and said he would fight McCullough's demand. McCullough estimates that battling Pierce's complaint cost at least \$10,000. That money otherwise would come from the estate, supposed to be divided among those who lost money when Carolina Investors failed. Former company chairman Earle Morris Jr. and former president Larry Owen have been convicted of securities fraud for lying to Carolina Investors' customers about the health of the company, which was used to finance HomeGold's operating losses, according to securities records and court documents. A third former Carolina Investors officer, Owen's wife, Anne, has been indicted on securities fraud charges and is awaiting trial. Attorney General Henry McMaster told The Greenville News the government investigation has expanded beyond Owen and Morris. McMaster wouldn't discuss specifics, but said his office is cooperating with federal officials also probing the company. "We've submitted three indictments to the grand jury," McMaster said. "All three have been returned, and we've had two trials and they've both been convicted - one by a guilty plea after an enormous showing of evidence and the other by a conviction by the jury. "Both trials were conducted in an excellent fashion and right now, we're batting 1.000 on the effort. These things, unfortunately, they take time." Asked how much more time he needs, the attorney general said, "It'd be inappropriate to set a date or to speculate, but we're going to continue working on it until we have all the evidence that we need and follow it as far as it goes."

March 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Today, the IRS unveiled this year's "Dirty Dozen." It's a list of the top twelve notorious tax scams that dishonest promoters use to cheat taxpayers their money. Read closely...perhaps you can save yourself from potential phonies. Trust Misuse: when promoters urge innocent taxpayers to transfer their assets into phony trusts. Frivolous Arguments: promoters have been known to make claims that often times challenge the law. Just remember, no one has the right to disobey the law. Return Preparer Fraud: dishonest preparers derive financial gain by skimming a portion of a taxpayer's refunds and charging inflated fees. Credit counseling cautions: be careful when you search for outside money management help. Some organizations are qualified to do such tasks at all...and are only after your money. "I don't pay taxes...why should you?!": con artists talk about how they don't file or pay taxes and then charge people a fee to share their "secret." Problem is...these phonies DO pay taxes. Identity theft: where thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up credit card charges, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits. Corporation sole: the idea is the arrangement allows an individual to be exempt from federal income taxes as a nonprofit, religious organization as described in tax laws. African-Americans get a special tax refund: thousands of African-Americans have been misled by people offering to file for tax credits or refunds related to reparations for slavery. There is no such provision in the tax law. Americans with Disabilities Act: involves the purchase of equipment and services that the promoter alleges meets the strict criteria of the Disabled Access Credit. Improper home-based business: purports to be tax relief but is actually illegal tax avoidance. Schemers claim that taxpayers can deduct most, or all, of their personal business expenses by setting up a bogus home-based business. Share/borrow earned income tax credit dependents: where unscrupulous tax preparers "share" one client's qualifying children with another client in order to allow both clients to claim the EITC. Offshore transactions: use of an offshore bank account, brokerage account, credit card, wire transfer, trust, offshore employee leasing or other arrangement to hide or under report income or to claim false deductions is illegal. \*Note that these are not in particular order.

March 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Name of product: Soother Baby Pacifiers Units: About 34,500 Importer: The Elegant Kids 2000 Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif. Hazard: The pacifiers are banned under federal law. They failed federal safety tests when the nipples separated from the base and can pose a choking hazard to infants and small children. Incidents/Injuries: No injuries reported. Description: The recalled pacifiers measure about 2-1/2 inches in length and 2 inches in width. The pacifiers are blue, green, yellow and pink and have a tan tinted nipple with a curved plastic handle and shield. "SOOTHER BABY PACIFIERS" is printed on the back of cardboard packaging with a clear blister-bubble cover. Sold at: Gift shops, discount retail stores and various Hispanic commercial retailers nationwide from March 2000 through January 2005 for between \$.50 and \$1. Manufactured in: Thailand Remedy: Consumers should return the recalled pacifiers to the store where purchased to receive a full refund. Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact The Elegant Kids 2000 Inc. collect at (213) 627-6716 between 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday. To View this recall online, go to our website at: [www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05125.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05125.html) CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772

March 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Consumers have had it with thugs who steal their identities and at least one insurance agency has a plan to help them out. It can happen to any of us and its been happening a lot more lately. Our personal information, including social security numbers ending up in the hands of thieves. Now, some insurance companies like Allstate are helping consumers take the offensive. There is insurance for almost everything. Car insurance, flood insurance, life insurance and homeowners insurance. Now ,some companies are offering coverage against one of the fastest growing crimes, theft identity. Drew Scott, a Senior Sales Associate at Allstate Insurance in Taylors, says, "You read about in the paper everyday. Its in the news lately". Most recently, Choicepoint. The Atlanta data-base corporation was hacked by people posing as legitimate customers when in fact they were scam artists who stole the personal information of hundreds of thousands of Americans; creating a ton of financial problems. "There's no way to avoid it and people are finding out different ways to manipulate that information everyday", says Scott. Scott is in his 15th year in the insurance business. Coincidentally, he purchased identity theft insurance right before his social security number was stolen in Texas. The incident left him with a cell phone bill in the hundreds. Scott says, "It was an ironic situation. It wasn't that big of a deal but it was kind of interesting, the timing of it". The cost, Scott says, is pretty affordable considering the amount any of us could lose. Allstate will add I.D. theft insurance to your homeowner or renter's policy for \$30 a year. There's no deductible and it provides up to \$25,000 in coverage which includes legal and loan fees. Liberty Mutual also offers identity theft insurance at \$25 a year, with a \$250 deductible and up to 15-thousand dollars in coverage. The number for the Allstate office in Taylors is 864-322-6582. Below are links to other insurance agencies for you to check and see if I.D. Theft insurance is available. [www.Libertymutual.com](http://www.Libertymutual.com); [www.statefarm.com](http://www.statefarm.com); [www.prepaidlegal.com/idt/arlanier](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/idt/arlanier)

March 16, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The price of gas in the Carolinas is at an all time high, breaking records at an unbelievable rate; and there's no sign of a slow down anytime soon. In the last 12 days the price of gasoline jumped 14¢ per gallon of regular unleaded, that adds up to more than a penny a day according to the A.A.A. Carolinas. The average here in South Carolina is \$1.93 for regular unleaded gasoline and there is no end in sight for rising gas prices. There were some very dire predictions today from the A.A.A. It says gas prices will continue to go up until Memorial Day and they will go up much higher than last year. Breaking it down, prices in South Carolina would reach \$2.23 per gallon by Memorial Day. And in North Carolina that would be \$2.31. Believe it or not, there is a sliver lining in all this. All the time we

talk about how South Carolina ranks poorly in the nation for this or that. This time, the Palmetto State's gas prices are second-lowest in the nation, trailing New Jersey according to the A.A.A.

March 16, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

With no end in sight for rising gas prices, people buying cars have a lot more to consider. But just how accurate are those Environmental Protection Agency stickers on automobiles that tell us how much mileage we get per gallon? ConsumerAffairs.Com says that's what congress wants to know, and recently it decided to take up the issue. And with gas prices as high as \$2.00 per gallon, lawmakers couldn't have better timing. Lawmakers say the test procedures used to determine fuel economy ratings are off. **New or used:** every year, millions of Americans hit the car lots and look for a car. Mark Wickman wants to get rid of his 1998 Ford Explorer and went to the CarMax on Laurens Road in Greenville County to do it. He says, "I'm looking for price, that's a big factor. I'm looking for a comfortable car because I spend a lot of time in my car." Ordinarily Mark wouldn't give much thought to the E.P.A.'s sticker plastered on the window. It tells potential buyers how many miles the car can get per gallon of gas. But with gas prices promising to go up, and go up rapidly, Mark says miles per gallon are very important. "I make my living driving and I spend my day driving. So every time the price of gas goes up, it comes out of my pocket," says Mark. According to ConsumerAffairs.Com, lawmakers are now questioning the accuracy of those E.P.A. stickers and want to pass a law that would require tests to be more like real-world driving; which means more high-speed driving, aggressive accelerating and stopping, and more short trips. Bill Woodson, Sales Manager at CarMax, says, "I think stickers are a good guide for folks to use and those stickers, those numbers are going to be pretty accurate." Woodson says the E.P.A. ratings are already accurate enough and have always been just a guide.

March 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Perdue Farms Inc. is recalling about 230,700 pounds of fully cooked chicken breast strips that went to Subway restaurants throughout the eastern United States, including North Carolina, because they may have been underprocessed, the Agriculture Department said Thursday. There were no reports of illness from the chicken, the department's Food Safety and Inspection Service said. The chicken strips were made during a five-day period in February and March and shipped to centers in Alabama, Florida, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia for distribution to Subway restaurants throughout the eastern United States. "We are contacting all the operators who may have received the product," Perdue spokesman Joe Forsthoffer said. The products being recalled are 10-pound cases of "SUBWAY FC CHICKEN BRST STRIPS." The cases contain the code "09365" or "09222." Each case also bears one of these packing dates: "5032," "5038," "5052," "5055" or "5070." Perdue, which is based in Concord, N.C., discovered the problem, the Agriculture Department said. **ON THE NET** Perdue Farms: <http://www.perdue.com> Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>

March 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

During the month of April, pet owners in the Upstate are encouraged to vaccinate their animals from rabies. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is teaming up with area vetrinarians to stop the spread of this deadly virus. Sue Ferguson of DHEC's Bureau of Environmental Health says vets will offer vaccinations at a low cost of three dollars. Last year one hundred eighty-one cases of rabies were reported in the state of South Carolina. For listings of clinics participating in the rabies prevention log onto [www.scdhec.gov/news](http://www.scdhec.gov/news) and click on rabies.

March 22, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Meth labs are being found just about anywhere these days, highways, garages, hotel rooms and homes. While meth users will do anything to get their hands on the ingredients, grocery stores and pharmacies are doing their best to watch the sales of Sudafed, a major ingredient in the drug. It is cold and flu season so picking up a box of Sudafed isn't really out of the ordinary, but if you're planning on buying several boxes, plan on having to show some identification. Sudafed is known to many as an over the counter decongestant, but to meth users, it's a vital ingredient in the drug. According to Ken Helms, Pharmacist at BI-LO, "People of course are using Sudafed to manufacture meth, which is a drug that's abused quite a bit, so as a pharmacist, we have responsibility for that." Helms says that responsibility comes in if and when someone tries to buy more Sudafed than they should, "If someone were to ask for a large quantity, then that's a flag to alert us to check ID's and try and find a little bit more about what they want it for." Many people say showing their identification or having to sign something to buy Sudafed is a step in the right direction. Doug Morgan, a BI-LO shopper says, "People are making this stuff in their bathrooms and kids are getting into it and you don't know if they're putting acid into their bodies or chemicals or what and that's the first way to stop it, I think, and that's keep in touch with the ingredients." But others say the problem is bigger than just regulating who buys what. Rodney Pillsbury says, "If you just look at the drug aisle, you'll see so many things, if people want to narc out their bodies, if there's anything they can chose to do, it's probably more political than it is anything else." But Helms says he'll continue to do what he can to help, "If it's a legitimate reason they're going to do it, but if they're going to use it to manufacture meth, they're going to turn and get it somewhere else." "Nobody's sick enough to have to buy five or six boxes of this stuff at a time," says Morgan. So far, BI-LO on Pelham Road has not had any problems with people trying to buy large quantities of Sudafed.

March 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A federal government review says some South Carolina homes are not reselling well, even as housing prices soar elsewhere in the country. A review of home value increases by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight found that those in South Carolina increased by an average of 5.84 percent, far below the nearly 11.2 percent increase nationwide in 2004 - the biggest annual rise in 25 years. The review found that the value of resold and refinanced homes in Anderson increased by 1.1 percent, putting it last out of 265 metro regions. Greenville was also ranked near the bottom with a 2.52 percent increase in value. South Carolina's only appearance in the top 100 markets were Charleston's 79th rank with a 12 percent increase in home appreciation and Myrtle Beach's 98th rank with 9.96 percent growth. The following were also on the ranked list: \_ The North Augusta-area ranked 170th with 5.32 percent growth. \_ Spartanburg ranked 180th with 5.07 percent growth. \_ Columbia ranked 186th with 4.87 percent growth. \_ The Rock Hill-area ranked 226th with 3.8 percent growth. \_ Florence ranked 236th with 3.29 percent growth. The review by the agency, which regulates home mortgage buyers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, found Nevada, Hawaii, California and Florida were the states with the biggest increases in home values. Las Vegas was the city ranked first, with 36.23 percent growth in value. "It's frustrating that we always seem to be at the end of everything," said Elizabeth Gray-Carr, a realtor with Prudential C. Dan Joyner Co. in Anderson. Recent manufacturing layoffs and high unemployment could be pushing the area's home values down, said Terri Anderson, broker and owner of Terri's Team Real Estate in Anderson. But she pointed to new industries moving in as signs that demand for homes would not suffer where prices had.

March 26, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

It doesn't take supporters of lowering the state's income tax long to point south to Florida as an example of a state that's got it right. But research unveiled last week shows South Carolina, despite its relatively high top rate for income taxes, is more than competitive with the Sunshine State, where there is no individual income tax. A state Board of Economic Advisors researcher analyzed the states' tax systems. Those findings were released last week as Gov. Mark Sanford's plans to cut the state's top income rate from 7 percent to 4.8 percent were derailed in a Senate Finance subcommittee. Sanford often cites competition with Florida for retirees as a reason to lower or eliminate the state's income tax. While Florida lacks an income tax, the analysis shows it taxes more than South Carolina in other areas: \_ Florida has a cigarette tax of 34 cents per pack, well above South Carolina's 7 cents. \_ Local phone calls have a 7 percent tax in Florida, but no tax in South Carolina. \_ Florida levies a 10 percent tax on

home satellite television service. That service isn't taxed in South Carolina, although legislators here have considered doing so. \_ Outpatient hospital services get a 1 percent tax and inpatient services get a 1.5 percent tax in Florida. But there's no hospital visit tax in the Palmetto State. \_ Counties in Florida have more flexibility to impose local sales taxes and fees. A head-to-head comparison Miami Beach and Myrtle Beach shows taxes average 6 percent higher in Florida. \_ Property taxes on a \$100,000 home average 70 percent more in Florida. Many of Florida's additional taxes and fees help provide basic state functions, Kurt Wenner, a senior analyst at the watchdog group Florida TaxWatch, said. "It's a pretty good tax state, but because there's not an income tax, people generally understand they'll have to pay more elsewhere," Wenner said. On a national basis, the two states rank competitively even though they diverge on tax issues. The nonprofit Tax Foundation says South Carolina's and Florida's state and local tax burdens rank among the 10 lowest in the nation. Another study is in the works that will compare South Carolina's tax climate to its neighbors, North Carolina and Georgia. Clemson University economist Holley Ulbrich says she suspects South Carolina will compare favorably. "There's an ideological hatred for taxes that's fairly widespread, but our taxes are actually pretty low," she said. Sanford says that lowering the state's income tax will be a critical economic development tool. He says it will attract wealthy retirees and executives while helping the state's small business owners. But the thousands of retirees moving to the state each year are more interested in good restaurants and nice beaches than lower income taxes, says Pat Mason, co-founder of the Center for Carolina Living, a nonpartisan research group tracking retirees moving into the state. Lower "taxes don't appear to be the leading edge or a key thing that attracts retirees," said Mason, himself a transplant to the state. Sanford lost a round on his income tax fight last week. The Senate Finance subcommittee sidelined Sanford's proposal, which would cost \$1 billion yearly when fully implemented in a decade. They panel instead recommended amending the House bill carrying Sanford's plan with a tax cut that targets small business owners. It would cost \$129 million yearly when fully implemented in four years. When fully implemented, Sanford's plan would cut \$350 from the annual tax bill of a single person income of \$35,000, Sanford spokesman Will Folks says. Sanford will continue to try to build support in the public for his broader approach, Folks says.

March 29, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Responding to customers and competitors who have shown that the era of "banker's hours" is over, Wachovia Corp. is rolling out a plan to improve customer convenience by keeping some branches open later on weekdays and Saturdays. "I think this is where the industry is headed," said Cece Sutton, head of retailing for the Charlotte-based bank, which is the fourth-largest in the nation. "When you talk about other retailers, they don't close at 5 p.m. or at 1 p.m. on Saturday. "There are a lot of working families who simply can't get to the bank," she said. "Now they can do their banking on Saturday or even on the way home from work." The bank will test the new program starting April 30 in Washington, D.C., where Wachovia already is the market leader. Under the plan, 36 of the 130 branches Wachovia operates in the area will remain open until 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Also, 54 branches will stay open until 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Some branches will keep the longer hours on both weekdays and Saturdays, others just one or the other. Some urban branches currently close at 3 p.m. on weekdays and by noon at the latest on Saturdays, the bank said. Two other U.S. cities also will get the extended hours program in coming weeks and if all goes according to plan, Wachovia plans to offer it in 15 to 20 markets by the end of next year. Arnold Danielson, president of industry consultant Danielson Associates in Rockville, Md., said Wachovia is responding to moves by smaller rivals who already offer such extended hours. In Philadelphia, Commerce Bancorp branches are open seven days a week, and Danielson noted that the New Jersey-based bank is in the process of opening new branches in Washington, he said. "They (Wachovia) have no choice," Danielson said in a telephone interview. "Commerce has made it their way of life in Philadelphia and other competitors have gone to longer hours." Danielson said the biggest headache for Wachovia will be hiring enough tellers and other employees to work the new shifts, "particularly in Washington where the economy is strong." Still, he called it "an irreversible trend that puts pressure on other big banks like Bank of America and could squeeze mid-sized banks like (Winston-Salem-based) BB&T Corp. and SunTrust." Bank spokeswoman Mary Beth Navarro acknowledged that Wachovia is not the first bank to offer longer weekday and weekend hours. "The ones doing it now are mostly regional banks," she said. "We looked at where we were compared with others and we noticed that a lot of our competitors were also looking at it." Navarro said the bank would have to hire additional tellers, but said the cost of starting up the initiative is modest because it is on a relatively small scale. Wachovia operates about 3,300 bank branches in 15 states, mostly on the East Coast. "We expect customers to get some value from this and that should help us win new

customers and lower customer attrition," she said. "All the surveys indicate that bank customers vote with their feet and 80 percent of our new customers come in through the front door." Diane Wagner, spokeswoman for Charlotte's other megabank, Bank of America, said some of its branches keep Saturday hours. The bank also has opened branches in unconventional places like train stations to make itself more accessible to customers, she said. "We are always listening to what our customers are interested in," she said. "If our times are not workable, we will make adjustments." At BB&T, spokeswoman A.C. McGraw said more than 40 percent of branches offer some form of extended hours. "Saturday hours are the most common, but there's also some branches with early morning hours or late Fridays to 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.," she said. "We listen to our clients in each market and we adjust our hours to suit them." When Wachovia chief executive Ken Thompson announced the extended-hours initiative in early March, he said it was designed to improve customer service - one of his favorite topics. "We want to be the most convenient bank, too," he said. "So we are responding to our customers' needs for more convenient banking hours." The branches targeted for participation are those located in areas that are frequented in the evenings and on weekends. For instance, branches located near shopping centers will get extended Saturday hours. Danielson compared the push for longer branch hours to banks' rush to install automated teller machines after it became clear that consumers were choosing one bank over another because of ATMs. "People will go to the bank where they get the most convenience," he said. Wachovia started exploring the possibility of extended hours last summer, then sought input from focus groups, Sutton said. "It was like the perfect storm," she said. "We were talking about it internally and then once we got the input from the focus groups it was clear that we needed to go in this direction."

March 30, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A Vermont company is recalling a batch of chocolate bars after discovering the wrong wrapper was used on bars that contain peanuts, posing health risks to people with peanut allergies. Lake Champlain Chocolates of Burlington said Tuesday that its peanut bars were mistakenly labeled Five Star Fruit & Nut Bars, which contain hazelnuts, pecans, cherries and dark chocolate. Three consumer complaints prompted the recall of the 2-ounce bars, which were shipped in early March to retailers in North Carolina, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia. The side of the wrapper bears lot number 05056. Consumers can return the product to the store for a refund. More information is available by calling the company, which is cooperating with the Food and Drug Administration on the recall, at 800-634-8105, weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST.

*Attachments*



*Crime*



**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Saturdays (airs weekly)	8pm	COPS
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Monday – Friday at 12 midnight (60:00)  
Monday – Friday at 3:30am (30:00)

**DESCRIPTION:** COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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**DESCRIPTION:** AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
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**DESCRIPTION:** The Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

January 4, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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**DESCRIPTION:**

One-time Charter Communications executive James Smith III pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges Tuesday, becoming the third former executive of the cable TV company to admit to a scheme to defraud investors by inflating subscriber numbers. Smith, 56, of California, was among four former executives indicted in July 2003. He had been scheduled to face trial Feb. 7. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, U.S. Attorney James Martin said. Sentencing was set for April 1. On Dec. 16, former chief operating officer David Barford, 46, of Chesterfield, pleaded guilty to the same charge. And another former executive, David McCall, 49, of Laurens, S.C., pleaded guilty to the charge in July 2003, soon after the indictments. Barford and McCall face sentencing in March. Both Smith and McCall were senior vice presidents of Charter. "These guilty pleas clearly establish the significant corporate fraud which was committed in this case," Martin said. "The clear message is corporate executives who cook the books will pay the price." A trial is scheduled Feb. 7 for ex-chief financial officer Kent Kalkwarf, 45, of St. Louis. He is charged 14 counts of mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud - the same charges the other executives faced before their plea agreements. The company, based in suburban St. Louis, is controlled by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Paul Allen and has about 6.3 million subscribers in 37 states. It is the nation's third-largest cable TV provider. Martin said that from June 2001 to March 2002, Charter was having a difficult time

meeting subscriber growth projections. The executives allegedly instructed employees to delay disconnecting customers seeking to end their service and those failing to pay their bills until after the end of financial quarters, defrauding investors. Charter spokesman Dave Andersen would not comment specifically on the Smith case, but said in a statement, "It should be noted that Charter has fully cooperated with the government in its investigation. At the time of the indictments of four former employees, the government commended Charter for its extraordinary cooperation, and stated that neither the company, nor any of its current officers or directors, is a target of the inquiry." The company has said it has reviewed its business practices, hired new management, instituted new financial procedures and developed ways to ensure its employees comply with laws and regulations. Charter, founded in 1993, grew rapidly through acquisitions as part of Allen's "wired world" vision. The company's stock peaked at \$27.75 per share in November 1999. But debt from those acquisitions began to catch up with Charter, and analysts and investors began to question its business practices. Charter stock dipped to 76 cents per share by October 2002. On Tuesday, Charter shares gained 3 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$2.26 in late afternoon trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market. The shares have traded in a 52-week range of \$2 to \$5.69. In August, Charter agreed to pay \$144 million in cash and stock to settle shareholder lawsuits accusing the company of inflating its financial results and customer numbers.

January 4, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man whose body was found alongside a road off U.S. Highway 276 near Cleveland may have been stabbed to death, Greenville County sheriff's deputies said. Deputies found the body of James Fowler Dellinger, 71, of Marietta, after a passer-by who had spotted it called Monday night around 8:30 p.m. Deputies at first thought the man had been struck by a car and turned the investigation over to the state Highway Patrol, but the next morning saw stab wounds on the body. Investigators are trying to determine if Dellinger was killed by the roadside or brought there, said Master Deputy Michael Hildebrand. Investigators are also talking to people who may have seen him Monday night.

January 5, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Shoppers at WestGate Mall in Spartanburg were forced to duck for cover this afternoon as shots were fired in the parking lot near the food court. According to the PR Director at WestGate Mall, an altercation between two males was spotted by mall security in the food court just before 5 p.m. The two were escorted out of the mall and as mall security personnel were returning inside, they heard gunshots. Eyewitnesses were able to give police a description of a vehicle that was seen leaving the scene and it was stopped a few miles from the mall. We're told that there are two suspects in custody and that there were no injuries resulting from the incident. Stay tuned to FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for more information.

January 13, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Cleveland County couple has been indicted on charges that lingerie models performed sex acts at their business. For \$30, people could access the back room of Midnite Video and Novelties, authorities said. Once inside a back room, which was named "KC's Lingerie and Modeling," people would tip the models different amounts according to what they wanted, said Lt. Joel Shores of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office. Store owner Craig Sorvino, 38, and his girlfriend, Kelly McCoy, 33, were expected to be arrested this week, police said. Sorvino declined to comment Tuesday, and McCoy couldn't be reached for comment. Sorvino was charged with three felony counts of disseminating obscenity, one misdemeanor count of permitting more than one adult establishment in the building and one count of disseminating harmful material to minors. It's not illegal to own an adult establishment in Cleveland County, but it's illegal to have two under the same roof, Shores said. McCoy's charges include one

felony count of obscenity, Shores said. Complaints about prostitution and other illegal activities surfaced shortly after the business opened in August, Shores said. "It took us a while to develop the case to where we felt it was prosecutable," he said. The grand jury issued the indictments Monday.

January 17, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man who threatened Cherokee County sheriff's deputies with a screwdriver was shot and killed by an officer Monday morning. Deputies were called to a home here about 2:30 a.m. to investigate a shooting. Officers were met by a man with a screwdriver who threatened them and refused to drop the tool. One deputy fired when the man ran toward them, Sheriff Bill Blanton said. The man was Alfred Daniel Behney, 42, who lived in the home, Blanton said. Deputies found a man and woman inside the home, suffering from gunshot wounds. The man, who had been shot in the face, was flown to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. The woman, who was shot in the stomach, was taken to Upstate Carolina Medical Center in Gaffney. Their names were not released. The deputies involved in the incident began a week off later Monday, Blanton said. The State Law Enforcement Division was investigating the incident.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Boone man has been charged with trying to entice a woman posing on the Internet as a 13-year-old girl into having sex, police said. George Clayton Trivette Jr., 34, a fast-food restaurant manager who worked as an assistant cross-country coach at Watauga High School until Jan. 13, is charged with felony solicitation of a child by computer to commit an illegal sex act. Trivette was also charged Nov. 17 with secret peeping after a neighbor accused him of peeking into a bedroom window. Trivette worked with the high school's cross-country team for about 10 years before school officials fired him, Watauga High School principal Gary Childers said. Childers could not comment on the reason for his termination. An affidavit filed by police with the Watauga District Court says high school administrators questioned Trivette about the allegations Jan. 13 after representatives of an Internet watchdog site contacted them about the alleged crime. The watchdog group, U.S. Cyberwatch, has posted what it says is the complete transcript of a three-hour chat room conversation Dec. 30 between Trivette and a woman who volunteers with the group. Police have seized Trivette's computer, computer disks, and some CDs identified in a police inventory as adult-oriented.

February 1, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville bishop has been sentenced to probation on a statutory rape charge from more than 30 years ago. Bishop Johnnie Smith, 71, entered an Alford plea to the charge Tuesday. In an Alford plea, a defendant accepts punishment, but doesn't admit guilt. Prosecutors said Smith had sex with a 12-year-old girl more than 30 years ago. There is no statute of limitations on the charge, and police said the woman came forward last year after talking to a counselor. The girl had called Smith to talk about problems in her life, and the bishop invited her over and they had sex, prosecutor Betty Strom said. "That dreadful, horrible, confused time changed my life forever," the victim told

the judge. Smith, who founded the Evangelistic Temple Church and is a former county councilman, was sentenced to 10 years in prison, which will be suspended if he completes three years of probation. He also will have to register as a sex offender.

February 1, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A former Greenwood County sheriff's deputy has been charged with performing lewd acts with a child. Norris Randall Jay, 35, of Saluda, was charged with lewd acts with a child under the age of 14 and aggravated assault and battery. Court records indicate the incident occurred in 1997 at Jay's home. The victim was 12 years old at the time. Jay, who was hired by the sheriff's department in 1992, was suspended in November when SLED began the investigation. Sheriff Dan Wideman said Jay was fired after SLED agents signed a warrant against him. Jay was released Thursday on bond.

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A dermatologist has been sentenced to five years of probation after not contesting charges he sexually assaulted three boys. Richard Crooks, 67, pleaded to three counts of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature Tuesday. He submitted an Alford plea, where a defendant maintains his innocence but concedes there is sufficient evidence for a jury to convict him. The three incidents occurred over 30 years, starting in 1958. One boy accused Crooks of fondling him while he took swim lessons. Another said Crooks touched him inappropriately while checking his body for acne, prosecutor Bob Ariail said. Crooks lawyer said he was a respected dermatologist who treated more than 35,000 patients. The doctor decided to plead guilty because he did not want to go through the stress of a trial, attorney Beattie Ashmore said. If Crooks violates his probation, he will have to serve 10 years in prison. The judge also ordered him to register as a sex offender and complete 30 hours of community service.

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Greenville Police believe they have the person responsible for scamming the elderly on Augusta Road. Suzette Williams is in jail tonight on charges of swindling, battery, larceny, and burglary. Six years ago Williams committed similar crimes in the same area, which led police right to her. A neighborhood crime watch also helped police link the two. Police arrested her this morning at her home. She is in the Greenville County Detention Center without bond. For more information on the Neighborhood Crime Alert Program and on these scams visit the Greenville Police's website at [www.greenvillepd.com](http://www.greenvillepd.com).

February 5, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A domestic dispute in Anderson County got way out of hand, and then shots were fired. Now one person is dead, another behind bars. 29-year-old April McCullough is sleeping at the Anderson County Detention Center this week. The shooting happened Broadway Lake community off Phyllis Drive . Investigators say McCullough and her 32-

year-old boyfriend Scotty Fowler had a history of domestic violence. McCullough is charged with murder. A hearing is scheduled for later this week.

February 5, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Three inmates have committed suicide in South Carolina prisons in the past three weeks. All three were serving life sentences. While prisons experts say the recent spate of suicides is rare, it's not unheard of. Joe Weedon, director of governmental affairs for the American Correctional Association said prisons across the country do a good job identifying those at risk for suicide. "That's not to say it doesn't happen or it can't happen," he said. In 2004, four South Carolina inmates killed themselves. Since 1996, there have been 21 inmate suicides. On Tuesday, Darrell Mathis, 34, was found hanging in his cell at McCormick Correctional Institution, according to the Department of Corrections. he was serving a life sentence for armed robbery in Spartanburg County. McCormick County Coroner Faye Puckett said he died from asphyxiation by hanging. On Jan. 31, Charles McCray, 45, bled to death at Broad River Correctional Institution after using a needle to open a shunt on his leg, said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts. McCray was on dialysis and was serving a life sentence for first-degree burglary and murder in Florence County, according to the Department of Corrections. On Jan. 19, Herbert Butler, 31, was found hanging in his cell at Kirkland Reception and Evaluation Center, according to the department. Butler had been in state custody just over a week when he died. He was sentenced to life for murder in Charleston County. Watts ruled both Columbia deaths to be suicide. State prisons director Jon Ozmint would not discuss the recent suicides, but said there are factors outside the prisons that could lead to similar incidents. Ozmint said tougher sentences and cutbacks in mental health care contribute to a hopelessness among prisoners. "We are the biggest provider of inpatient care to the acutely mentally ill in the state," he said. Ozmint said, he thinks the department is doing a good job of identifying mental health problems. "We haven't had a case where we let one slip through the cracks," he said. It wasn't known whether the three inmates who killed themselves had been diagnosed with a mental illness. Ozmint noted that department employees stop hundreds of suicides every year.

February 5, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a 32-year-old man who authorities say was shot after a domestic dispute. Scotty O. Fowler was found shot at an Anderson home Saturday night, said sheriff's spokeswoman Susann Griffin. He died at Anderson Area Medical Center of a gunshot wound to the chest shortly before 7:30 p.m., said Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man was shot to death while attending a Super Bowl party at a private club, Anderson County sheriff's deputies said. Frederick Michael Penn, 24, of Anderson, was shot before midnight Sunday after a fight that began inside the club moved outside, sheriff's office spokeswoman Susann Griffin said. Club owners had asked Penn to leave because of the fight, Anderson County Coroner Charlie Boseman said. Penn died on the scene of multiple gunshot wounds, Boseman said. Investigators are interviewing several witnesses who were at the crowded business, Griffin said. No one has been arrested. A security camera in the parking lot had been disabled so club operators could supply more power to televisions, Griffin said.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Twelve-year-old Christopher Pittman heard voices in his head from mania induced by Zoloft when he shot and killed his grandparents, a forensic psychiatrist testified at the youth's double murder trial. "Christopher said he had thoughts in his head telling him to kill his grandparents," said Dr. Lanette Atkins, who works for the state Department of Mental Health. "He said he shot them and heard echoes in his head saying 'Kill. Kill. Do It. Do It.'" Pittman was acting strangely and was fidgeting, talking fast and jumping around when he was on the anti-depressant for a time before the slayings, relatives testified Monday as the trial entered a second week. Pittman is charged with two counts of murder in the deaths of Joe Pittman, 66, and his wife Joy Pittman, 62, in their Chester County home in November, 2001. Christopher Pittman, now 15, has acknowledged he killed them, burned their house and then drove off in their car. But the defense maintains no murders were committed because the youth's mind was clouded by the effects of the Zoloft. He didn't know right from wrong at the time, said Atkins, who is also a child psychiatrist and evaluates competency and criminal responsibility in many cases of juveniles charged with crimes in the state. "He described everything to me as being in a television show - being part of a television show and not being able to stop it," Atkins said. "He was completely different from anything I had seen in my entire life" Pittman's sister Danielle Pittman Finchum testified. She said she saw Pittman the week before the slayings. "He was constantly up and down, inside and outside the house. He was crazy," she said. Pittman's aunt, Melinda Pittman Rector, said she spoke to her nephew twice by phone in the days before the shootings. "He said it was like his skin was crawling and he was burning beneath. He said it was like I'm burning under my skin and can't put it out," Rector, the daughter of the victims, testified. In Florida, the boy was prescribed the anti-depressant Paxil and a doctor in Chester put him on Zoloft after he came to stay with his grandparents in early November. Atkins said doctors misdiagnosed Pittman. "In this case, I see no evidence of depression to treat," she said, adding there is also a question of how much Zoloft Pittman was taking at the time. Pittman's doctor has testified he prescribed a 50 milligram dose each day. But Atkins said Pittman told her he was taking as many as four pills a day - perhaps as much as 200 milligrams. But had the youth been taking the lower prescribed dose "my opinion still would not change. You can have the reaction with a 50 milligram dose," she testified. She said his mania is reflected in a statement to police that his grandparents were shot by a black man who then kidnapped him. She noted Pittman drove to neighboring Cherokee County where the car he took got stuck "He had no real plan. He had no where to go. He had just killed the people he loved the most," she testified. The prosecution contends Pittman knew what he was doing and shot his grandparents because they disciplined him for choking a younger student on a school bus shortly before the killings. Rector testified that when she spoke to her nephew, he said the Zoloft was making him sleepy. But, she said, the youth told her "I don't want to sleep because when I sleep I have nightmares." Pittman was hospitalized in Florida, where his father lives, after he threatened to kill himself about a month before the slayings. He also ran away from home there. Last October, the FDA ordered Zoloft and other antidepressants to carry "black box" warnings - the government's strongest warning short of a ban - about increasing the risk of suicidal behavior in children.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Attorney General Roy Cooper on Tuesday warned North Carolina consumers that the latest identity theft scam - called "phishing" - is on the rise and could cost them their money and good credit. "The crooks who used to go through the trash or use the telephone are now using this high-tech crowbar to get to their victims," Cooper said at a news conference at the Federal Reserve Bank's Charlotte office. Phishing is the slang term for an Internet-based scheme in which criminals seek to defraud their victims by sending out authentic-looking e-mails that claim to come from a bank, credit card company or another legitimate financial institution. The purpose of the e-mail is to entice - or in some cases frighten - consumers into responding to the message by handing over personal information such as account numbers or their Social Security number, Cooper said. "We want consumers to know that if they get an e-mail from someone asking for personal financial information that they should not even respond to it," he said. "Your bank or credit card company would not ask for that information." Cooper was joined by officials from the Federal Reserve and the North Carolina Bankers Association at the event, which was held in conjunction with National Consumer Protection Week, which began on Sunday. "Identity theft used to be something that involved things like dumpster diving or mail theft," said Jeffrey Kane, senior vice president in charge of the Fed's Charlotte office. "As things have become more efficient and more people started using electronic methods to make their payments, we've seen a drastic acceleration of these phishing scams." Cooper has made identity-theft prevention his top priority for consumer protection. Identity theft is considered the nation's fastest-growing white-collar crime,

he said. Since November 2004, the FBI has found nearly 8,500 unique phishing e-mail messages across the United States and more than 1,500 Web sites, he said. "So far, 51 corporate brands have been hijacked by these thieves," Cooper said. "With thousands of scammers and thousands of opportunities for them out there, consumers must take things into their own hands to protect their identities." Some 20,000 North Carolinians are victims of identity theft each year, Cooper said. A typical victim can spend hundreds of dollars to clear up thousands of dollars in fraudulent charges, he said. "It's a crime that's costing businesses billions of dollars but it's also destroying a lot of peoples' good names," he said. Recently, Cooper said, the Federal Trade Commission said one in three consumers in this country will become victims of an identity theft scam. In the past, Cooper has called on local police to use a national consumer database more often to track cases of identity theft and for more police training. He also has advocated a series of public service alerts to warn people about ID theft and give them tips to protect their financial and personal information.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Christopher Pittman was manic when he killed his grandparents while they slept, but that doesn't mean he couldn't think to burn their house and drive off in their car, a key defense witness testified Tuesday. "With mania, you don't lose the ability to think," Dr. Lanette Atkins, who works for the state Department of Mental Health, said, adding manic thinking is impulsive. Atkins, a forensic and child psychologist, had earlier testified the antidepressant Zoloft caused the mania and that Pittman, then 12, didn't know right from wrong when his grandparents were shot. Pittman is charged with two counts of murder in the shotgun slayings of Joe Pittman, 66, and his wife Joy Pittman, 62, in their Chester County home in November, 2001. The prosecution contends Pittman was angry at the couple for disciplining him. The defense contends murder was not committed because Pittman didn't know right from wrong because his mind was clouded from the effects of Zoloft. Atkins noted Pittman left the crime scene with no food, no extra clothing and no plan where he would go. He also put several guns in the car but never used them. Prosecutor John Meadors asked why, if Pittman didn't know right from wrong, he burned the house after the slayings. "I don't know that I can tell you. I know he was angry and he was scared," said Atkins, who evaluates competency and criminal responsibility in many cases of juveniles charged with crimes in the state. She said that people who are manic, while they don't think logically, can carry out certain tasks. "People who are manic can stop at stop signs," she said. "They think impulsively. They don't think about the consequences of their actions." Pittman was prescribed the antidepressant Paxil in Florida a short time before he moved to Chester to live permanently with his grandparents. A doctor there put him on Zoloft after he came to stay in early November. Pittman was hospitalized in Florida, where his father lives, after he threatened to kill himself about a month before the slayings. He also ran away from home there. Atkins said she made an error in her report to the court that records indicated Pittman's dose of Zoloft was increased to 200 milligrams two days before the slayings. A doctor's report shown to the jury Tuesday indicated the prescription remained at 50 milligrams. Atkins said that after talking to Pittman and his sister, she thinks Pittman was taking more than the prescribed dose. "That's a mistake in the way I wrote that report," she said, but added even at the lower dose "it still could have caused the problems." Atkins said it took her much research and time to reach her opinion. "I have prescribed Zoloft for hundreds of kids and adults," she said, adding that in the majority the drug works well. "I worry about the effect of my testimony on the use of antidepressants in the future," she said. "I don't want to see this as a drug case. This is a case about Christopher Pittman." Last October, the FDA ordered Zoloft and other antidepressants to carry "black box" warnings - the government's strongest warning short of a ban - about increasing the risk of suicidal behavior in children. Pittman faces 30 years to life if convicted. The case was moved to Charleston County because of pretrial publicity in Chester County.

February 9, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A man has been charged with murder in the stabbing death of a Gaffney woman. Gaffney Police Chief John O'Donald said Winfred Darnell Benson, 21, was arrested Tuesday in Shelby, N.C. and charged in the death of Keishana Knuckles, 21. Knuckles was found dead in her home on Sept. 29, 2004. Police said she had been stabbed in the neck several times. There was no sign of forced entry into her apartment. O'Donald said Benson

became a suspect in the murder investigation after a weekend incident involving another Gaffney woman. He faces aggravated assault charges in the beating of 21-year-old Shaundra Evette Lindsey, who was friends with Knuckles, police said.

February 9, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Investigators in Greenville County are trying to crackdown on the sell of alcohol to teenagers and they are using young undercover buyers to do it. Officers say they investigated 15 stores in the county and workers at only three of them didn't sell to an underage buyer. However, because of the busts now some store clerks are writing down driver's license numbers, but many customers are concerned the numbers could be used to steal their identities. A 19-year-old undercover buyer says he's made several buys and walked out of stores with alcohol with no problem. "They look at your I.D. and then you're like what are you doing..you just looked at my I.D. it does take you by surprise," said the buyer. Undercover buyers say if they are asked their age, they have to tell the truth and often times store clerks stills sell them alcohol. Officers say they investigate stores every month.

February 9, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Investigators are once again looking for a man just a year after serving jail time for a different murder. Police say 34-year-old Sammy Cowan shot and killed 34-year-old Frederick Penn during a Super bowl party Sunday at Club Envy in Anderson. The accused gunman was also convicted of killing Frederick 's best friend in 1994. If you have any information about Sammy Cowan give the Anderson County Sheriff's Office a call at 864-260-4400.

February 13, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Twenty year old Shata Latoya Rose was fatally shot once in the head last night while visiting her cousins just down the road. Investigators devastated, I'm in shock cause I just don't see no way how it happened and I think it should be investigated a lot more than it has been." Her mother, Regina Rose, says her daughter was her angel and that "she was the sweetest, most loving person you have ever met." Shata was truly the all American girl. She played basketball and track for Blue Ridge High School. She also played the viola. But instead of planning her daughter's wedding, her mother plans her funeral. "Shata was looking to get married and give me grandkids some day." The events surrounding her death are still unclear so investigators are waiting until the autopsy is performed and all the interviews are conducted before they have interviewed the shooter who claims the shooting was an accident but that's little concellation for Shata's mother who says, "I'm just determine how Shata was killed.

February 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man missing for more than a week in the North Carolina Mountains is found dead. Now his cousins and a friend are behind bars in connection with his murder. Investigators found the remains near Hines road. The three suspects managed to hide their dirty secret for nearly 10 days, but it was an anonymous top that gave them in. Charged with murder is 35 year old Michael Kirby. His 29-year-old wife Wendy and 58-year-old Cecil Henson are charged with accessory to murder. Investigators say the three drove 54-year-old Bobby Kirby around in a van for hours on February 4th, beating him until he died- suffering massive trauma to the brain and stomach. Police say the



Kirby's and their cousin fought for years which led to the fatal beating. All three are in the Rutherford County Detention Center.

February 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The death of a Piedmont man following a weekend fight is under investigation by police. Michael Riddle, 40, died about 6 p.m. Saturday, Greenville County Deputy Coroner Chris Bryan said. Riddle had a bruise on his forehead following a fight at a residence here, Capt. Dave Henderson said. The fight was about a family member, he said. No charges have been filed. An autopsy is planned for today.

February 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

15-year-old boy who claimed the antidepressant Zoloft drove him to kill his grandparents was found guilty of murder Tuesday and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Christopher Pittman hung his head as the verdict was read after about six hours of deliberations. He spoke briefly to the court before the sentence was handed down. "I know it's in the hands of God. Whatever he decides is what it's going to be," Pittman said quietly. The trial was the first case involving a youngster who says an antidepressant caused him to kill, Pittman's lawyer said. It came at a time of heightened scrutiny over the use of antidepressants among children. Pittman cried Tuesday as his father and other family members asked for leniency. "I love my son with all of my heart," said Joe Pittman, whose parents were the victims. "And if my mom and dad were here, I know they would be begging you for mercy." Defense attorneys had urged the jury to send a message to the nation by blaming Zoloft for the killings. They said the negative effects of Zoloft are more pronounced in youngsters, and the drug affected Pittman so he did not know right from wrong. "We do not convict children for murder when they have been ambushed by chemicals that destroy their ability to reason," attorney Paul Waldner said. But prosecutors called the Zoloft defense a smoke screen, saying the then-12-year-old Pittman knew exactly what he was doing three years ago when he shot his grandparents, torched their house and then drove off in their car. Prosecutor Barney Giese said the real motivation for the crime was the boy's anger at his grandparents for disciplining him for choking a younger student on a school bus. And he reminded jurors how the boy carried out the killings - shooting his grandfather in the mouth and his grandmother in her head while both lay sleeping. "I don't care how old he is. That is as malicious a killing - a murder - as you are ever going to find," the prosecutor said. He pointed to Pittman's statement to police in which he said his grandparents "deserved it." Pittman was charged as an adult in the November 2001 murders of Joe Pittman, 66, and his wife Joy, 62. Zoloft is the most widely prescribed antidepressant in the United States, with 32.7 million prescriptions written in 2003. Last October, the Food and Drug Administration ordered Zoloft and other antidepressants to carry "black box" warnings - the government's strongest warning short of a ban - about an increased risk of suicidal behavior in children.

February 19, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

In just a few months Charles Chris Williams will die by lethal injection or the electric chair. April 18th. That's when Williams is scheduled to die for murdering his ex-girlfriend in a BI-LO grocery store. The six day trial ended with all 12 jurors eventually agreeing death is the appropriate punishment. Like he did the same day the jury convicted him, Williams once again showed no emotion as the jury confirmed one by one their decision to punish Williams with death. He murdered Mandy Williams in September 2003 at the BI-LO on East North Street. Every day since, is exhausting for Mandy's parents. "I can't really say about the verdict. All I know is he didn't give Mandy the choice of life or death. He only gave her the choice of how she was going to die," says Mandy's step-mother, Pat Williams. It's been a long week for jurors and families after emotional testimony from Mandy's parents, surveillance video showing Williams firing his gun, and hearing Mandy's last words recorded on a 911 call. Initially, the jury was split Saturday on assigning death but the judge ordered it to redeliberate and come back with a decision. Gary Williams,

Mandy's father says, "it's been a year and a half and it's been real hard for everybody." Mandy's father says the system has served up justice at the same time it failed his daughter when Williams first beat up Mandy last April. Rushing her to the hospital with serious injuries. "I felt like had he not been released and stood trial that, you may not know this- but the day he did this to her was the day he was supposed to stand trial for that first offense," says Gary. Mandy's daughter Colista is now four years old. She is living with her grandparents. They tell us they dread the day they have to tell Colista how her mother died.

February 20, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The shooting death of a twenty four year old Aaron Clark Gray in Spartanburg County by Sheriff's deputies is being called a hate crime by one of the nation's leading civil rights activists. Jesse Jackson along with Gray's father are outraged. They say Gray was unarmed and senselessly slaughtered. Sheriff deputies say Gray tried to run them over and they had no other choice. Today Jackson demanded a thorough investigation. Standing with Kenneth Landrum, the victim's father, Jackson says, "the killing is a hate crime and that is illegal and unacceptable." Speaking at a morning worship service, Jackson urged action against all the injustices he believes plague the African American community. Jackson says, " We must fight back with our marching feet and the courts with our vote." He urges action against jobs going over seas, action against the recent beating of Larry Lewis by a Greenville Police officer and action against the killing of Aaron Clark Gray in Spartanburg. Sheriff Deputies claim Gray tried to run them over, but Jackson isn't buying it. He says, "It couldn't be that someone is running you over while you're shooting at point blank range, five times in the face, two times in the chest and the dead man can not speak for himself. So Gray's father sought Jackson's help for his slain son. Kenneth Landrum says, "I feel in my heart that this is a cover-up." Landrum says he will not rest until something is done. "I see my son looking at me in terror, his eyes wide open. Daddy, Daddy they're killing me for nothing. That's all I see over and over in my head." But Jackson says that although it seems dark now, there is hope. "It is dark and people who want the light must come together and lift the ceiling." So far no officers have been charged and SLED is still investigating the shooting at the request of city officials.

February 22, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

They are popping up everywhere, even in motel rooms, Tuesday night the Anderson County Sheriff's Office found another meth lab. Deputies say they received an anonymous tip that led them to the Budget Inn Express off Highway 187, they say they got there just in time to find a working meth lab. According to Ed Hazel, an investigator with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, "immediately upon speaking with [the people in the motel room] we could smell a strong odor that I know to be from a meth lab." Four people were staying in room 215, Ruby Sammons, her daughter Misty Sammons, Misty's boyfriend, Michael Spado and a 15 year old boy. Deputies say they were given permission to search the room. Hazel says they found "various glassware and bottles with biphasic solutions, hoses coming off of them, we located numerous matchbooks with the striker plate removed and at that point we knew we had a red phosphorous lab." As investigators diffused the lab, other guests at the motel were moved from their rooms, Jeff Crowder was staying in the room below. He says, "it surprised me because this type of chemical and stuff that's in that anytime something could've happened, it could've blow up." According to deputies, this particular lab is extremely dangerous. Hazel says, "the technique they're using, if it's not done properly it can release a large amount of phosphorous gas which is extremely dangerous." A scary thought for Christian Klipford, his family, including his two children, four year old Gage and 19 month old Zoe were staying in the room directly below where the lab was being manufactured. "It's pretty scary actually," says Klipford, "I think they really need to crack down on this, but it's everywhere like I said, you just never know." While investigators aren't surprised to find a lab like this, Crowder says he never expected his stay at the Budget Inn Express to include a meth lab bust, "Never even thought or smelt anything that would be anywhere close, I'm glad they have more of these drugs off the streets."

The three adults in the room were charged with manufacturing meth as well as three charges with endangering children because of the juvenile in the room and the two children staying in the room below them.

February 22, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Authorities in the town of Woodfin have arrested a registered sex offender in connection with a raid at his home late last night. Police say Christopher Bowman is accused of allowed others to bring their underage girlfriends to his home to have sex. The raid occurred around 10 p.m. Bowman is charged with two counts of second-degree kidnapping. Investigators say Bowman allowed men to give young girls alcohol and pornography, then watched the couples have sex. At a different location, police arrested 18-year-old Timothy Cutshaw. He's charged with one count of statutory rape and one count of indecent liberties with a minor. Last Saturday, authorities arrested Chris Hall on 27 felony warrants, including nine counts of statutory rape and indecent liberties with a child.

February 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Someone made off with two different pieces of very heavy construction equipment, one was found Wednesday, but Greenville Police believe you can help them find the other machinery and the thief. Police are still looking for one Caterpillar excavating machine which weighs 50,000 pounds and costs nearly \$135,000. Both police and the owner of the equipment say the person who stole it knew what they were doing to get something this big off the construction site without anyone noticing. According to Lt. Mike Gambrell with the Greenville City Police, "You definitely have to know what you're doing in reference to loading it on a flatbed or driving it from the area." C and C Construction Co. has been working at "The Point" on Woodruff Road for about a month, but sometime between Monday night and Tuesday morning, someone made off with a Caterpillar machine. The company says they found tire tracks Tuesday morning, and say a machine this big must be loaded onto a flatbed to be moved anywhere. "With a flatbed situation, they're going to come straight in, put it on a flatbed just as they would when they unloaded it and steal it, possibly go to another area and sell it," says Lt. Gambrell. On the other side of town, at Rocks and Ropes, a \$50,000 Caterpillar was also stolen sometime over the weekend. James Gallman is a sub-contractor working at Rocks and Ropes, he says, "I couldn't believe it really, I noticed it wasn't there but just assumed he had it over at another job or doing something with it at and one of the other carpenters mentioned it was gone and somebody stole it." Police say the machine was driven off the property, surprisingly without anyone noticing. "You'd like someone putt-ing down the road in a trackhoe somebody would've seen something," says Gallman. Police found the equipment just down the road, but are still searching for the other Caterpillar, and the person they say knew what they wanted and how to get it. "They definitely had knowledge, working knowledge of a Caterpillar to be able to go in and get it," says Lt. Gambrell. Police say if you notice heavy construction equipment being driven off in the middle of the night or in a place where it shouldn't be, contact them at Crimestoppers at 23-CRIME or just call 911.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Five, not seven. That's the official number of wounds found on the body of a man shot dead by Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputies. But the man's family is calling that a lie. The report centers around the number of bullets fired. According to the coroner, only one bullet killed Aaron Clark Gray nearly two weeks ago when deputies say he tried to run them down during a botched undercover drug buy. The deadly bullet was shot into gray's forehead. Spartanburg County Coroner Jim Burnett says, "I can take a bullet and I can make six wounds in the human body". At issue is the number of wounds found in Gray's body. His father says he saw a total of seven. Four in the face, two in the head, and two in the chest. "It's very easy to confuse information because were talking about gunshot wounds", says Burnett. But the coroner only found five wounds cause by three gunshots. This is how it breaks down. The deadly bullet was found in Gray's forehead. But another bullet was fired that must

have hit an object, breaking off the copper jacket wounding Gray's cheek. The second bullet grazed Grays chin. The third bullet created two wounds in Gray's chest because it went in and came back out. Adding up to five wounds.

February 27, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

THE SUSPECT: Dennis L. Rader, 59, a municipal code enforcement supervisor from the Wichita suburb of Park City. He has not been charged. THE CRIMES: Ten killings spanning a period from 1974 to 1991, all in the Wichita area. The self-nicknamed BTK's initials stand for "bind, torture, kill." THE PUNISHMENT: No death penalty unless authorities can link BTK to any killings after 1994, when the state's capital punishment law was enacted.

February 27, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

He lived among them for nearly 30 years, having arrived in the community before graduating from college. But Dennis Rader, the man police believe is the BTK serial killer, wasn't well liked by some of his neighbors. Most residents who lived near Rader described him as a bureaucratic bully, an ordinance enforcement officer for this Wichita suburb who often went out of his way to find reasons to issue citations. One neighbor said Rader was once seen measuring grass in a front yard with a tape measure to see if it was too long. Another recalled catching Rader filming his house, documenting possible violations. And yet, there were hints at a pleasant side. He helped elderly neighbors with yard work, was active in his church and served as a Cub Scout leader. Police say BTK - the killer's self-coined nickname stands for "Bind, Torture, Kill" - may have killed as many as 10 people between 1974 and 1991. Police arrested Rader on Friday and said Saturday they were confident he was the killer. "He was definitely two-sided," said Jim Reno, who lived across the street from Rader and his wife for 16 years and experienced several confrontations with him over what he called Rader's "harassment." Rader, 59, moved into the neighborhood around 1976 and graduated from Wichita State University in 1979. Although he studied criminal justice, Rader never became a police officer, instead going into code enforcement, or what Reno called "a glorified dog catcher." Park City Mayor Emil Bergquist, citing a request of investigators, declined to comment about Rader's employment record or any part of the case. Rader lived with his wife, whose parents lived around the corner. No one answered the door at the residence Saturday afternoon. Public records indicate he has two adult children. Bill Lindsay, 38, lived behind Rader and said something about the man unnerved him. Lindsay said his wife caught Rader in their adjoining backyards filming the back of their house. "He really acted really funny," said Lindsay, a truck driver. "I'd be on the road and my wife would tell me, 'Dennis has been out again, taking his pictures.'" And yet most neighbors never suspected Rader of any connection to the serial killings. "I didn't start thinking about (BTK) until I started seeing increased law enforcement in the neighborhood" in the last few weeks, Lindsay said. Jason Day, 28, described the working-class neighborhood 7 miles north of Wichita as "very quiet. You'd never consider something like this happening here." Day said his brother was in Rader's Cub Scout pack at the nearby Park City Baptist Church, but their mother pulled him out because of Rader. "It was his demeanor," he said. "He was so strange." Rader also was a scout leader at Christ Lutheran Church, where he had held leadership positions for about 30 years. Church members "are in a state of shock and bewilderment about the turn of events that have unfolded this week," said Michael Clark, the church's pastor. Not everyone had a bad story about Rader. David Cool said he had lived next to Raders' in-laws for most of his life, and his parents knew Rader. He said Rader helped his parents, now in their 70s, with yard work. "Mom doesn't have a bad word to say about him," Cool said.

February 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Two more Landrum police officers have been suspended pending the outcome of a State Law Enforcement investigation into allegations of misconduct and ticket fixing at the department. Officer Scott White and Sgt. Tim Kelley learned Friday they had been suspended. Chief Bruce Shelnut's eight-man department is down to three full-time officers. He said Saturday the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is on standby in case backup is needed. Six reserve officers also are on standby. Shelnut said he plans to hire two new officers in March to replace one fired officer and another who resigned. White, Kelley and former Officer Steve Alexander went public with their suspicions of wrongdoing in January. Alexander was fired soon after. White and Kelley have begun compiling a list of a dozen instances they say mark harassment by several current and former colleagues and even an elected official. The two men said they have a videotape that documents one complaint and plan to turn it over to SLED. White and Kelley said they filed a formal complaint Feb. 2 but it has yet to be heard. Shelnut said "personnel reasons" factored into his decision to suspend White and Kelley.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A man sentenced to die next week for a brutal 1991 killing should not be executed while the courts consider whether prosecutors improperly withheld information about a deal struck with one of their witnesses, defense lawyers said. They also argued Wednesday that his crime does not rise to the level of other capital punishment cases. William Dillard Powell, 58, was sentenced to death in 1993 for killing Shelby convenience store clerk Mary Gladden as he tried to rob her for drug money. Powell was high on cocaine and beat Gladden to death in a panic because she fought back, his lawyers said. He is scheduled to be executed on March 11 in Raleigh. His lawyers want the sentence reduced to life in prison. On Wednesday, Cleveland County District Attorney Bill Young and two retired Shelby police detectives visited with Gov. Mike Easley for about 30 minutes during a clemency hearing. Several people representing Powell then met in Easley's office for about an hour. The detectives said Gladden was beaten to death with a tool used to repair tires. Detective Dale Ledbetter said it was a brutal attack. "It was probably the most heinous crime I had ever investigated," said Ledbetter, who worked on the force for 27 years. Young, who prosecuted the case, declined to comment. Gladden's family members met later with an attorney for Easley. They also didn't want to talk with reporters. Powell's lawyers said during an afternoon news conference that they plan to argue that the courts haven't adequately considered a claim of prosecutorial misconduct discovered last week. Young failed to reveal a deal with Powell's girlfriend, Lori Yelton Donohue, in exchange for her testimony at the 1993 trial. Prosecutors are required to tell the defense about any promises made to witnesses. "We think it's a big deal," Powell attorney David Teddy said. "The point is (Powell's trial lawyer) was deprived of the opportunity to question Lori Yelton (Donohue) on this question." The alleged prosecutorial misconduct was discovered a week ago when Teddy interviewed Donohue in preparation for Powell's clemency hearing. Donohue told Teddy a felony larceny charge against her was dismissed three months after she testified, according to her affidavit. Last week, a judge refused to conduct a hearing about Donohue's alleged deal. That ruling will be appealed to the state Supreme Court, lawyer Bill Massengale said. The lawyers also intend to argue that Powell's case does not warrant a death sentence by today's standards, though it probably would meet the test for a "strong" second-degree murder charge, Teddy said. Peter Bearman, a former sociology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was hired by a lawyer in a separate North Carolina murder case in the mid-1990s to analyze consistency in the state Supreme Court's reviews of death penalty cases. Bearman's review of more than 100 death sentences between 1978 and 1995 found that cases most like Powell's didn't result in the death penalty, based on criteria such as age, drug use, and premeditation. "Cases that look like Mr. Powell's case look like life cases, not death cases," said Bearman, now director of the sociology department and Institute for Social and Economic Policy at Columbia University. Powell's attorneys also said the judge in his trial was convinced Powell had not intended to commit murder, and that evidence was withheld from defense attorneys. The state Supreme Court upheld Powell's conviction and death sentence in 1996. The U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his appeal in 2003.

March 4, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A gathering of friends and family brings back painful memories. "The family was just devastated," said Carey Duncan. A year ago, Carey's uncle, 36 year-old Bryan Nick Moore, went missing and investigators searched Nick's house in Easley looking for

anything that would lead them to him. "At first we thought maybe he went out of town, but when he didn't call his boys that Friday we knew something was up," said Duncan. The search turned up nothing until a Department of Natural Resource officer found Nick Moore's body in a wooded area off of Massey Road in Northern Anderson County where someone shot him. Now, the crime tape that once surrounded Nick's house is gone, but his niece Carey Duncan says the emptiness their family feels is still very real, just like the day he disappeared. "He would always call you up on the phone and he'd be there to talk to," commented Duncan. However, Tim Busha, Anderson County Sheriff's Chief Deputy, says cold case investigators with the sheriff's office are working the phones in search of new leads. "They are combing through the files piece by piece to seek out information that may not have been apparent a year ago," said Busha. Investigators say they want the killer brought to justice in hopes of bringing Nick Moore's family some peace. Nick's family and friends are offering a thousand dollar reward along with the Crimestoppers reward in this case. If you have any information call the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

March 5, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

It's been nearly nine months since Anthony Huston saw his daughter Tamika. "It was very devastating to me and my family." Tonight America's Wanted stepped in featuring Tamika Huston's case and revealing new developments. Just a few days prior to Tamika's reported disappearance police received an anonymous call to 9-1-1. It was someone claiming their brother had gotten into a fight with his girlfriend and drowned her in Cleveland Park lake. Police put two and two together and sent out cadaver dogs and search divers - but no sign of Tamika. Police then caught a break in the case on June 20, 2004. They discovered Tamika's car at the Barksdale Apartment complex just minutes away from where Tamika was living at the time she disappeared. But police could find nothing connecting Tamika to the Barksdale Apartments. But inside Tamika's car police found something that would literally unlock the case. A set of keys that didn't open Tamika's residence or her car. It appears the keys were left behind by someone else. America's Most Wanted joined the investigation and hired a locksmith to examine the keys. Investigators took it a step further. They found the person who actually made the key. The key maker was able lead police to yet a different apartment complex- The Freemont Apartments. Here police tried the key on every door in the building. It was not until they reached the last door that they unlocked part of the mystery surrounding Tamika's disappearance. Police were able to trace the key back to a former resident. Through interviews police found out that Tamika and the former resident used to date. Police got a search warrant and discovered blood in the master bedroom. Through DNA testing, cops were able to determine that the blood did indeed belong to Tamika Huston. Tamika's father says, "It really brought a lot of sadness to all of us. We know now that there's some foul play and there's a crime scene." Police questioned the former tenant. They say he claimed that someone had vandalized his apartment and left ketchup and hot sauce all over the place. He told police he had purchased a steam cleaner to clean the mess. He is currently serving time for parole violation on a non-related charge. Police have only referred to the former tenant as a "person of interest." He denies having anything to do with Tamika's disappearance. Police, the community, and Tamika's family are all desperate for answers. Anyone with any information is urged to call 58-Crime or 1-800-Crime-TV or visit America's Most Wanted's Web site at [www.amw.com](http://www.amw.com)

March 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A Spartanburg man has been arrested after police said he took photographs of men inside an outlet mall restroom. Jerry Lewis Collins, 41, has been charged with preparation of obscene material, according to a police report. Collins had a camera phone with 10 photos from inside the restroom and 27 photos from another camera, according to the report. A 16-year-old boy told his father and a mall security guard Saturday that he noticed a man sticking a camera under a bathroom stall, the report states.

March 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Former teacher of the year, Dawn Wheeler, was charged with a felony D.U.I on December 27, 2004. She chose to tell no one at Spartanburg County Alternative School where she taught high school English. Fox found out about the charge and notified District 6 who took immediate action and suspended Wheeler pending further investigation. In a statement to Fox, Superintendent Dr. Owings wrote: "We were unaware of the DUI allegation until we were notified by Fox 21 News this afternoon. We confirmed in a conversation with Lt. Mike Gambrell of the Greenville City Police Department that an employee of the Spartanburg County Alternative School was charged with DUI 1st offense. The employee has been suspended pending an investigation by the district. " A fellow educator who wished to remain anonymous was outraged. He said, "Our students need a fair chance of learning and having a teacher like this, they're not having ample opportunity to learn." Greenville Police arrested Wheeler after she caused a head-on collision driving on the wrong side of Interstate 385. Wheeler's blood alcohol content was almost three times the legal limit, a .22. Her fellow colleague and acquaintance told Fox that Wheeler seemed unremorseful about the accident. "If she did feel bad, she wouldn't have waited one, two months to finally come clean." Although teachers have a life outside the classroom, this educator believes a teacher's lesson doesn't end when the bell rings. "Our children are the future of our country and we don't need Miss Wheeler teaching our students.

March 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

There is new information about a Greenville businessman investigators say had a cache of child pornography. 60 year old John Watson faces even more charges and is back home waiting to go to court. Under the law everyone is innocent until proven guilty, but in Watson's case the accusations are so shocking neighbors are disturbed he is back home. When we tried talking to Watson today, you won't believe who answered the door. When we knocked on Watson's door a child answered it saying no comment and slammed the door. We're told the boy is the son of a man who works for Watson and while the father was outside his two children were inside with Watson, who faces more than 40 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor. Shiloh Hudson, Watson's neighbor, says, "I think it's a little weird. If I had a kid I wouldn't allow them around him, it's a little weird". What investigators found is too disgusting to go into detail but Sheriff's Deputies say the magazines and computer C.D.'s confiscated have images of infants being raped, and children forced to have oral sex with older men. Sonya Drake, Watson's neighbor, says, "I was quite surprised I didn't know him that well". The businessman who owns Watson Realty in Greenville County also lives directly across from Wade Hampton High School, making all the new details even more unbelievable. "That's what's shocking. I didn't realize he was back home to be honest with you. I didn't know he was back home", says Drake. If convicted, the punishment could be pretty hefty. Five years in prison for each count. That could be the rest of his life.

March 16, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

47-year-old William Allen Smith's body was discovered when his next door neighbor checked on him Tuesday afternoon. His neighbor, Duran Poole, says, "We seen Foxy just laying in the bed with his covers over him and his eyes were in the back of his head like he had been beaten in the head and blood was all over the pillows and everything." Friends and family say Smith called himself "Foxy Brown" because he lived and dressed like a woman. Poole says, "Just because a person is gay doesn't mean you have to kill him ... Nobody deserved to die like that." Jhishayon Xcell works for AID Upstate, a program that helps HIV positive people and he often stopped by to see Foxy, instead he found this crime scene. "My encounters with Foxy were very, very pleasant and cheerful. I think he spent a whole lot of time making sure people were comfortable with her." Neighbors say the last they saw Foxy was Sunday afternoon. One cousin says she spoke with him yesterday morning. Duran Poole says he had to break down the door to get inside Foxy's home. The neighbor also said the door can only be locked from the outside with a key. "Whoever did it, Foxy knew him. Foxy let him in or they let themselves in." Neighbor Claudette Neeley has been living in the West End area for thirty six years and says crime scenes are the norm around here. She says, "It's terribly

dangerous in this neighborhood ... Drug infested, prostitution infested." Investigators also say that because of the victim's prior drug convictions for selling and using crack cocaine, they're looking into his murder as being drug related. They also urge anyone with any information to call **23-CRIME**.

March 16, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Two weeks ago America's Most Wanted stepped in featuring aspiring singer, Tamika Huston's, case. AMW's Tom Morris Jr. and crew are back in Spartanburg anticipating an update on Tamika's story. Correspondent Tom Morris Jr. says, "We're confident that at some point all those things we put out there will yield some sort of fruit." America's Most Wanted debuted in 1988 and has been instrumental in capturing over 835 criminals, that's about one capture per episode. Morris says, "People know they can trust us, law enforcement knows they can trust us. They know that our agenda is strictly trying to help facilitate an arrest, a resolution to the case." Just a few days prior to Tamika's reported disappearance police received an anonymous call to 911. The caller claimed their brother drowned his girlfriend and dumped her body in Cleveland Lake. Investigators believe the call might have something to do with Tamika. Morris thought for sure he'd hear from that caller. "I'm a bit amazed at this point that nobody in Spartanburg called us and recognized this guy's voice. That's the one thing I was really really hoping for Saturday night when this aired that someone could call and say I know who that is." Public Safety searched the lake with divers and recently with cadaver dogs. Investigators also found Tamika's car and a set of keys that led them to an ex boyfriend's apartment where they found her blood, but still no sign of Tamika. The ex boyfriend is in prison serving time on an unrelated charge and he is still considered a person of interest but Morris believes this mystery can only be unlocked one way. "It's going to take someone revealing something that hasn't been told yet." Public Safety asks anyone with any information to call 58-CRIME.

March 17, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

General Lee Road in Union County is your typical small town neighborhood until yesterday afternoon. One grandmother who is too afraid to show her face says her granddaughter will never play in her backyard again. "She's just shaken, completely terrified." Just a few yards away, her twelve-year-old granddaughter told police that a man hid behind an oak tree and grabbed her. She says she had just gotten off the school bus on the corner when the man threw her over his shoulder and dragged her into the woods behind her home. Her grandmother continued saying, "That's when he dropped her and she ran for her life. She came busting through the backyard door all muddy, screaming and crying." The grandmother called 911. Bloodhounds from Spartanburg County were sent in but the police and sheriff's officer were unable to track down the suspect. The suspect is a black man with braids in his hair wearing a brown coat. Union Public Safety asks anyone with any information to Crime Stoppers at 427-0800. A reward will be given if that information leads to an arrest in the case.

March 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A grand jury will decide whether to indict a man on a murder charge for stabbing his father-in-law in December. Michael Spearman killed 47-year-old Kenneth Burdette after Burdette's daughter called him and said her husband was going berserk, Greenville County Sheriff's Investigator Wes Smith said. After hearing Smith's testimony Tuesday, the judge sent the case to the grand jury. Spearman, 28, became angry after the family dog bit him on the lip. Spearman's wife tried to stop him from beating the dog, then told him she was going to leave, Smith said. Spearman then broke his wife's cell phone and went outside, while his wife called her parents on her husband's cell phone and locked him out of the house, Smith said. Burdette came to the house and confronted Spearman, who stabbed him in the chest and armpit, Smith said. The defendant told deputies Burdette had punched him in the jaw first.



March 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man who police say warned he would make last week's courthouse shooting in Atlanta "look like a picnic" has been charged with threatening court officials. Judge Marc Westbrook denied bond Wednesday for 68-year old Paul Thompson. The judge said he might set bond later, "but right now it's better not to have him out, to let things cool off." Thompson was upset because his daughter had recently been sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to a number of drug charges, Union Public Safety Chief Sam White said. Thompson first left a message with White talking about the Atlanta shooting where a judge and court reporter were shot and killed in a courtroom. The chief said Thompson warned him if court was held Wednesday, something bad would happen. White returned the call Tuesday afternoon and Thompson repeated the threat after saying he had been drinking heavily. During his bond hearing, Thompson's lawyer said Thompson "loves to run his mouth off" but has no record of violence. "He was upset as any parent would be upset, and when he got home he got to drinking and was on his fifth 24-ounce beer when he made the call," attorney Thom White said.

March 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 13-year-old male was shot and killed around 8:45 Friday night when three men approached a family of four in their car after they made a wrong turn into the Boulder Creek Apartment complex off North Pleasantburg Drive. The three men approached the car on foot and demanded money. The family tried to drive away and that's when one of the men then shot at the car hitting the 13-year-old in the chest. The family drove to North Pleasantburg Drive and called 911. Paramedics arrived and tried feverishly to revive the victim but they were unsuccessful. The mother complained of chest pains and was rushed to Greenville Memorial Hospital. The father and daughter were not injured.

March 19, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Investigators received an anonymous call last night saying that 33-year-old, John Lewis Mills, pulled the trigger that killed 13-year-old Earnest Henry Whitaker. Surviving family members, who also witnessed the murder, also fingered Mills in a photo lineup. Earnest was riding with his family when sheriff's deputies say they made a wrong turn on Pleasantburg Drive near the Cherrydale area. It happened around 8:45 Friday night. Earnest's parents were driving from Pickens County when they got lost looking for a wrecker company. The family turned into the Boulder Creek apartment complex where Sheriff's deputies say they were ambushed by three men who demanded money and jewelry. The family tried to drive away. That's when Mills allegedly shot into the car. A bullet struck Earnest in the chest. He died later at Greenville Memorial Hospital. Mills' rap sheet was over ten pages long with charges ranging from selling drugs, robbery, and now murder. Investigators still do not know who the other two men are and they ask anyone with any information to call 23-CRIME.

March 21, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Spartanburg man accused of holding a convenience store worker hostage for 13 hours last summer before police shot him is scheduled to go to trial on Monday. Jimmy Johnson is charged with kidnapping and 14 counts of assault and battery with intent to kill in the July 19 standoff at the Fast Point Food Store. Prosecutors have said they are looking for a life sentence against Johnson, if he is convicted. Johnson was convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery in 1990, which would make him eligible for the life sentence under the state's "two strikes" law if he is convicted of another violent crime. Police have said Johnson was trying to evade a traffic stop when he ran into the

convenience store and took employee Saroj Patel hostage. Police say Johnson held them at bay for hours, at times using the employee as a shield. The standoff ended when a police sniper shot Johnson in the shoulder after police used a front-end loader to rip two holes in stores walls. Prosecutors had expected Johnson to enter a guilty plea, but attorney, Clay Allen, told the judge Friday that his client would not plead guilty.

March 21, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A 13 hour standoff ends with a wall being tore down, a SWAT Team moving in and shots being fired. 39 year old Jimmy Johnson happened to be out on parole last July when he kidnapped a store owner, Saroj Patel. On Monday, they met again in a Spartanburg County courtroom. Johnson smiles and winks at his family members as he walks into a Spartanburg County courtroom dressed in an orange detention suit with ankle bracelets and handcuffs. As he entered a guilty plea, it didn't take long for the man with a criminal record to speak his mind. "I just want you to do what the hell you have to do so I can get the hell out of here," Johnson told the judge. Johnson kidnapped Saroj Patel and held her hostage at the Fast Point Convenience Store on South Main Street in Spartanburg. Patel seemed scared and nervous as she sat on a courtroom bench listening to Johnson talk about those tense moments inside the store. "She insisted on staying and me being a sucker for a pretty face I let her stay," commented Johnson. Patel says she didn't want Johnson to kill himself or hurt her. "He has a gun so I can't leave. He said Miss Saroj don't try to run," said Patel. She says that day is still very painful. "Last three nights, I can't sleep all night," commented Patel. However, she says she prays for Jimmy Johnson and her family every night. "Just give me peace in my mind and a peaceful life," said Patel. Johnson's mother told the judge that her son never planned to hurt anyone that day, but the Director of the Spartanburg Public Safety Department, Tony Fisher, says the department is pleased with the guilty plea. "I think that it benefited this community by not taking us through additional trauma and reliving the event, particularly for the victim," said Fisher. Some people, like Spartanburg County Solicitor, Trey Gowdy, are also still amazed by Patel's compassion. "You know bravery is when brave people do brave things. Courage is when scared people do brave things," commented Gowdy. Patel hopes the guilty plea will be a new beginning for her life, but she is sorry that Jimmy Johnson's life as he knew it is coming to an end. Johnson pleaded guilty to 14 counts of assault with intent to kill and a kidnapping charge. He has 10 days to file an appeal. Right now his sentence is life in prison without parole.

March 21, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A teenager's killer is still hiding from detectives and now the victim's family is speaking exclusively to FOX Carolina. There are no new leads since the deadly shooting Friday night and while investigators scramble to take the gunman off the streets, the family tries to cope. There is a lot of speculation about what really happened Friday night, leaving more questions than answers. But that doesn't change the fact that 13 year old Earnest Whitaker is dead. Thomas Whitaker, Earnest's father, says "He's something we enjoyed everyday. He was no trouble. Good Christian child". His obituary says Earnest Whitaker, but his friends and family called him E.T. At 13 years old, E.T. was well on his way to making quite an impression on the people he met. He was active in school and attended two churches. Pamela Whitaker, E.T.'s mother, says, "He's one of the best children that I could have ever asked for". But a road trip from Pickens County to Greenville with his mother and step-father would end it all. Pamela Whitaker says she was looking for a wrecker company when she made a wrong turn off Pleasantburg Drive. She ended up in the Boulder Creek Apartment Complex where she says three men ambushed her family. "Its like a nightmare", says Pamela. Pamela remembers one of those men holding E.T. at gunpoint demanding he give up his mother's pocketbook. "He said I bought you that pocket book for Christmas and I'm not gonna give it to him", says Pamela. Pamela says she threw the car in reverse and that's when the man shot E.T. in the chest. Since then, she can't help but remember his last words. "He said 'Mama, mama'. He said 'I'm shot. I'm dying', and he said, 'I love you'. And he looked back at his sister and said, 'you better take care of my mama'. Then he twisted his head and said, 'daddy. I love you'. And that was it", says Pamela. Investigators say E.T.'s parents identified John Lewis Mills in a line up as the killer. He has an impressive history with the law, with many arrests for drugs and burglary. Pamela says, "I hope they shoot you and kill you". E.T. leaves behind four

brothers and sisters. Sheriff's Deputies don't have descriptions for the two other men who ambushed the Whitaker's. That's even more reason why they need your help. If you know anything call Crime Stoppers at 23-Crime.

March 22, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Authorities have issued a statewide alert for a 27-year-old man who they say shot his girlfriend's father and took two children from a home in Clayton County. Police say the man identified as Terrance McDowell went to the home about 3 a.m. Tuesday. He is accused of forcing his way into the home at gunpoint and raping his 20-year-old ex-girlfriend. Police say the suspect then shot the father eight times. Police say McDowell took two children, four-year-old Faith McDowell, who is his daughter, and a five-year-old boy, Jaquan Wright. Authorities have issued an Amber Alert -- known as a Levi's Call in Georgia -- for a green 1998 Kia Sephia with Georgia license tag ARL 5783. The alert is posted on overhead message boards along metro Atlanta interstates. The woman's father has been taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. (Copyright 2005 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved) ALSO ISSUED IN SC APPROX 11:30AM .. AND NC AMBER Alert Issued for Two Children Abducted from Residence in Clayton County, Georgia An AMBER alert has been issued for two Georgia children allegedly abducted by one of the children's biological father from their grandparent's residence at 6:14 this morning. The alleged abductor, Terrance McDowell, is a suspect in the shooting of the children's grandfather and should be considered armed and dangerous. The two children are five year-old Jaquan Wright, a black male and four year-old Faith McDowell, a black female. Both are about four feet tall, have black hair and brown eyes. Faith's hair is braided with white beads. She was last seen wearing a pink shirt. Her half-brother, Jaquan, has short cropped hair and was last seen wearing a red shirt. The children were allegedly abducted by Terrance McDowell, a black male, age 27, six feet tall, brown eyes, black hair, last seen in a red shirt and blue jeans. He is the biological father of Faith McDowell. They were last seen traveling north from College Park, Georgia, on Interstate 75/85 and operating a green 1998 Kia Sephia with Georgia vehicle registration ARI-5783. The AMBER Alert is being issued in North Carolina because Terrance McDowell has relatives in North Carolina. Citizens are encouraged to notify law enforcement if they see Terrance McDowell or the missing children. For further information about this abduction contact the Clayton County Police Department at (770) 471-4242.

March 27, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 1 year old baby girl is back home with her mother after being kidnapped for several hours Saturday evening. It was the first time Greenville County Sheriff's deputies activated an Amber Alert. Now, the baby's father is in jail. Investigators say 26 year old Mark Cureton kidnapped his one year old daughter after a fight with the baby's mother. An Amber Alert was issued up and down the east coast. Nearly five hours after searching, Cureton was found. He is no stranger to the criminal archives, Cureton has a long list of arrests; including disorderly conduct, indecent exposure, and criminal domestic violence. Saturday night around 6:30 Sheriff's Deputies and family members say he made that list a little longer. Corey Smith, the baby's cousin, says, "I hear Mark, my uncle, burst into the hallway asking 'where's bug?', asking for his daughter, and he came in there and took her, then left. Cureton is accused of showing up at his baby's mother's house in west Greenville County; Punching her in the face, then snatching one year old Akayla from another room. For hours, off and on, Cureton would talk with negotiators who could only guess where he was driving. Cureton threatened to hurt himself and Akayla. Akayla's sister made this plea. T.J. Young, says, "Mark, man, just bring bug home and get over with it because I love my little sister and I don't want anything to happen to her". But eventually, Sheriff's Deputies say, Cureton was spotted by a Highway Patrol Officer driving north on Interstate-85 in Anderson County. Cureton didn't put up a fight, and the baby girl was returned safe-- and

unharmd to her mother. "He's cool sometimes, but I don't know, I don't know what to say", says Smith. Cureton is in jail without bond. He faced three charges related to the kidnapping and assault.

March 27, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Buncombe County man was arrested Friday on charges of sending an e-mail threat, allegedly for offering a \$250,000 bounty for Michael Schiavo's death and \$50,000 for that of a judge in the case, the FBI said. Richard Alan Meywes of Fairview allegedly wrote an e-mail that claimed to pass along word that a multimillionaire was willing to finance murder for hire. "It is my understanding that whoever eliminates Michael Schiavo from the planet while inflicting as much pain and suffering that he can bear stands to be paid this reward in cash," the e-mail said, according to a text of the message contained in an affidavit prepared by Tampa FBI agent A.J. Gilman. Michael Schiavo's wife, Terri, suffered brain damage in 1990 when her heart stopped briefly from a chemical imbalance believed to have been brought on by an eating disorder. She's been kept alive but in a persistent vegetative state as her husband and her parents fought in court about whether she should be allowed to die. Last week, Congress and President Bush entered the battle to force the case to be heard by federal courts. Since then, all courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have refused to intervene to order Terri Schiavo's feeding tubes restored. Meywes was arrested without incident at his home, the FBI said. Tim Stutheit, an FBI spokesman in Charlotte, declined to give Meywes' age. No one answered the door at Meywes' large rustic home with wooden siding on Friday evening. His telephone number was not listed in several published and online directories. Meywes was charged in Tampa, Fla., with murder for hire and with the transmission of interstate threatening communications. He was being held in the Buncombe County Detention Center and faces a U.S. Magistrate's hearing Monday in Asheville. He will eventually be brought to Tampa to face the charges against him, the FBI said. The FBI affidavit said the e-mail was sent on Tuesday to two Tampa-area news organizations and the host of a national conservative talk show. Two FBI agents based in Asheville visited Meywes' home on Thursday, the affidavit said. "Meywes stated that he sent the original death threat e-mail," Gilman said in his affidavit. "Richard Meywes said that he then forwarded the e-mail to the three media outlets. Meywes stated that his reason for sending the e-mail was to generate publicity." Cpl. Todd Ernst of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office said Meywes had no prior criminal record in the county where the arrest took place. If convicted, Meywes could face up to 15 years in prison and fines up to \$500,000, federal prosecutors said. "We take any threat of murder over the Internet seriously," said Sara Oates, a spokeswoman for the FBI in Tampa. "It doesn't matter who they are threatening. We take it seriously."

March 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Anderson County deputies and state investigators are trying to figure out what caused the head injuries that killed a 7-month-old girl. The foster parents of Shaqualla Mance called 911 on Sunday evening and the baby died about an hour later, authorities said. An autopsy showed she had fluid and swelling around her brain, coroner Greg Shore said. The parents of the baby visited her Thursday and saw a large lump on her head. When they asked the foster parents about it, they "were not given any answers," Shore said. The foster parents have had the girl since she was born, Shore said. A second child has been taken from the foster parents' home until the investigation is complete, the coroner said.

March 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville couple has been charged with murder in the baseball bat beating death of a woman visiting their home, authorities say. Tammy McGarity, 33, was found dead in the couple's home after they called police Monday morning, Greenville County Sheriff's spokesman Lt. Shea Smith said. McGarity appeared to be beaten in the head with a baseball bat and her wrist was cut, according to arrest warrants. Deputy Coroner Linda Holbrook said it appears McGarity died sometime Saturday. The victim appeared to know the couple, but a motive for the killing was not clear, Smith said. Jay Bradley Jackson, 34, and Tiffany Diane Elmore, 34, were arrested shortly after deputies arrived, authorities said.

## *Attachments*



## *Education*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
January 5, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Three coastal state senators have filed bills that would push the start of school across the state back to at least Aug. 25. A similar proposal failed before, but supporters point out a survey conducted last year shows about four in five parents of South Carolina school children want classes to start later in August. Opponents of the later start say teachers will lose time on preparing their children for the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test. They also say the survey was one-sided and did not give parents a chance to consider other factors that might make an earlier start date preferable. A compromise might allow local districts to keep control of the date. "A one size fits all answer may not be completely appropriate," said Chuck Saylor, president of the South Carolina Parent Teachers Association. One complicating factor is the desire by schools to get as much instruction as possible before students take the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test in the spring. Schools are evaluated on the PACT scores and the test must be given early enough so the state can send out reports by August. Supporters of the later start time said it will give South Carolina families more time to take vacation during the summer. That would bring in more tax revenue and therefore more money for schools, said a sponsor of one of the bills, state Sen. Dick Elliott, D-North Myrtle Beach. "It's like mama sending you a check from home," Elliot said. "It's like a windfall." But while the calendars at coastal schools may center around tourism, other districts have different needs. Richland School District 2 prefers an early start coupled with longer breaks at Christmas, Thanksgiving and in the spring to accommodate the schedules of families at Fort Jackson, superintendent Stephen Hefner said. "I think it's a travesty that the tourism industry is guiding what our schools do," said Kathy O'Quinn, Richland 2 teacher of the year. "It's absurd."

January 5, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina continued to lead the nation in efforts to improve teacher quality, according to a report released Wednesday by a national education trade magazine. The state earned an A- in the category and was ranked only behind Louisiana, according to Education Week magazine. For the past two years, South Carolina had been ranked first in the category, but state Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum was not discouraged by this year's rankings. "We've developed a solid teacher quality program, and it's working," Tenenbaum said in a news release. South Carolina requires teacher candidates to pass tests showing knowledge of basic skills, subject content and effective teaching and complete a minimum of 100 hours of clinical experience prior to student teaching, officials with the state Education Department said. The state's practice of evaluating teachers on the basis of peer review, classroom observations and written portfolios and financing a year of mentoring for all new teachers also helped the state earned high marks, officials said. The magazine graded the state in three other categories: \_ A for standards and accountability because of "clear and specific" measures in academic subjects and statewide testing. The magazine also notes the test scores are used to rate schools and can result in sanctions for underperforming schools. \_ C+ for school climate. Two of five eighth-graders in South Carolina attend schools where classroom behavior is more than a minor problem, the magazine reported using a National Assessment of Educational Progress survey given to school officials. Also, students in South Carolina are more likely to attend

large schools than peers in most other states, the magazine stated. B- for equitable spending for schools. Inequities in state and local revenue for education are tied to local property wealth, the magazine stated.

January 8, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A high-ranking member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans says he is eager to start work on the state Education Board next week. Ron Wilson said he plans to attend his first meeting Tuesday as the board representative for Anderson and Oconee counties. "I'm just looking forward to getting into this," he said. Wilson's appointment has been challenged by some civil rights organizations, State Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum and others. Wilson served as commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans from 2002 to 2004; he is now listed as a field operations director on its Web site. The Southern Poverty Law Center has accused Wilson of affiliating with neo-secessionists and white supremacists. Wilson has said his views about education are in line with those of residents in the counties he represents.

January 15, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The principal of Mountain View Elementary says sheriff's deputies did not properly warn teachers and staff of the dangers posed by the discovery of a methamphetamine lab next door to the school. Sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Shea Smith said investigators went to the home about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, made two arrests and took control of the residence. Smith said he was unsure when the school district was notified. "There was little communication between the sheriff's office and the school," Principal Tommy Hughes said. "And that bothers me a great deal. About 750 students, faculty, staff and parent volunteers were at the school at the time. "I never did find out until late in the day," Hughes said. He said a neighbor notified him and he sent letters home to parents on Friday. "We had the fire department standing by and we felt that we took appropriate safety measures so that no one was put into any unnecessary risk or danger," Smith said. "There was never a situation where there was any danger for residents or the school itself." Hazardous chemicals were removed from the site after students, teachers and administrators had gone home. Rory and Amy Lister were charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and operating a meth lab within a half-mile of a school, according to arrest warrants.

January 19, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Is it freedom of expression or a disruption to the classroom? A Greenville County student is asked not to return to school unless she removes a nose piercing. To the School District, there is no controversy. The policy is in black and white. Facial jewelry is not allowed except on the ears, but this week that policy is being challenged. Kristi Ahl is a junior at Blue Ridge High School and turns 17 this Friday. Tonight, she's doing homework for her advanced English class knowing full well that when she turns it in tomorrow she may be told to go home because of the small piercing in her nose. Kristi says, "They told me I couldn't wear a nose ring. And I couldn't go to class anymore and they were going to give withdrawal papers if I didn't want to take it out." Kristi got the piercing more than a year and half ago and has worn it ever since. She says the principal allowed her to wear it, but only if she covered it up. She's been doing that every morning. "I thought it was ridiculous; because I get good grades, its not disrupting what I do in school. I'm fine with my grades and everything," says Kristi. Blue Ridge 's principal denies ever allowing a student to wear a covered piercing and says rules are rules. If they're broken, punishment must be paid. Principal Kenneth Southerlin says, "I've never had to expel a student because of dress code. I guess that would be possible if someone wanted to be defiant because in order to go to school you have to be in compliance with the dress code." Being an honor student, the last thing Kristi wants to do is get expelled. With her good grades come raving



reviews and if she doesn't have to leave her personality at home for work or church she wants to know why she should do it for school. Kristi says, "It's what I want. It doesn't have anything to do with what I do in school."

January 20, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

New developments on the high school student told to remove her nose ring. She replaced it with a clear retainer and was told it was unacceptable. It's been a long week for 16 year old Kristi Ahl who says she just wants to be herself. Kristi was trying to meet school administrators in the middle and instead of allowing her to have something clear and thin in her nose they told her to take it out or wear a band-aid, which is sure to draw even more attention. Kristi is an honor student with good grades studies for her advanced courses nightly. She holds a job and goes to church. But when she goes to class at Blue Ridge High School she's called a disruption. Kristi says, "They told me I couldn't wear a nose ring. And I couldn't go to class anymore and they were going to give withdrawl papers if I didn't want to take it out". That was earlier this week and for more than a year and a half Kristi has worn a sliver stud in her nose everyday to class. After being slapped with a detention she was told to remove it because the nose rings violate the school's dress code. Kristi removed it and went to school Thursday with a clear retainer just to keep the hole open only to find she's still violating school policy. "They told me they saw the hole and I had to put tape over that". The school's principal says Kristi has to cover the tiny hole on her nose with a band aid to fully comply with district policy. It says students can only wear rings on their ears. But it also forbids them from having a piercing anywhere else on their face. Kristi says, "I'm trying to prove a point and there other kids not following dress code anyway and they need to catch those kids, they need to worry more about people that are failing then a tiny little nose ring". Kristi's mom says she's tried contacting the school board but her calls have gone unanswered. Next, she plans to take it to the school board meeting coming up on Tuesday.

January 20, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

An ammonia leak at a bakery Thursday sent at least two people to the hospital for treatment and forced the evacuation of a nearby middle school. Two employees of The Kroger Co. bakery products plant in Anderson were taken to the Anderson Medical Center emergency room for minor respiratory problems. Hospital spokeswoman Amanda Brasier said the two complained of shortness of breath and were treated and released by 11:30 a.m. Students at Southwood Middle School were evacuated to Westside High School though no ammonia was detected at the school, Anderson County School District 5 spokesman Bill Baker said. The incident began just before 8 a.m. and Anderson County Emergency Preparedness Office director Taylor Jones gave the "all clear" around 10:15 a.m. He said the plant and surrounding area was clear of danger from the ammonia leak. Baker said the students could be returned to the middle school before the end of the day. "Nobody was ever in any danger," he said. "Everybody's safe and sound." Anderson County Emergency Services Director Tommy Thompson said it would be up to Kroger to decide when its employees could return. Company officials attributed the problem to a mechanical failure and said they expected to resolve it within hours.

January 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The new leader of Bob Jones University is expected to help the 78-year-old institution connect with young people. Bob Jones III, 65, announced Thursday that he would step down in May, ceding the role of president to Stephen Jones, his 35-year-old son. No one predicts sweeping changes or says exactly how Stephen Jones is expected put the school in touch with young people. Gary Weirer, the university's registrar, said the younger Jones will bring to the job "a better understanding of how the contemporary culture in which we live affects young people, their thinking, their habits." The younger Jones is faced with the task of keeping the institution true to its moral compass while keeping it relevant to a changing society, said Dr. Bob Wilson, a Greenville plastic surgeon who is a member of the university's board of trustees. "I think that the change demonstrates the commitment of the administration to reinvigorate the management of the entire university with fresh new ideas that youth always brings," he said. "And I

think this will be certainly an opportunity for the university to look at a lot of what they've been engaged in a different light," Wilson said. For his part, "I haven't thought of any radical change," Stephen Jones said after his father's announcement. It's not as if radical change hasn't crossed his mind. A woman who once was his baby sitter reminds him that he used to say he was going to change the name the school his great-grandfather founded to "Stephen Jones University." As he announced he was stepping down, Bob Jones III decried the change he's seen in students coming to the school since he became president 34 years ago, particularly how popular culture eroded the basic values they arrive with. "Rather than looking at the world with a biblical world view, I think they have many times a culturally shaped worldview, which is quite humanistic and contemporary and basically lacking in that which is tied to eternal values, eternal truth and the word of God," he said. Bob Jones III says he will spend more time traveling and preaching. He'll remain as chairman of the board of trustees and perhaps act as "grandpa" to 5,000 students who attend college at the campus in Greenville. Certain things won't change with the transition, notably its mission statement: "to grow Christlike character that is Scripturally disciplined; others-serving; God-loving; Christ-proclaiming; and focused Above." It's what Stephen Jones' great-grandfather proclaimed and passed on to the generations that followed him in leading the school he founded in 1927 at College Point, Fla., moved to Cleveland, Tenn., and made a Greenville fixture 58 years ago. Stephen Jones' great-grandfather died two years before he was born. He'll be the first to run the college without knowing the founder and the first in the Jones dynasty to hold an earned doctorate. He'll accept his Ph.D. in Liberal Arts Studies the same day he becomes president. Stephen Jones said he didn't seek that job. "It's a job I've always run from, actually," he said. "I would be extremely happy in a classroom for the rest of my life," he said. "But I submitted to it, and there's no better group to work with than the folks the Lord's called here and the student body he's gathered." Bud Bierman, director of alumni affairs for the university, says the Stephen Jones worked in the university dining hall as a youth and has seen how the institution operates from the perspective of student, teacher and administrator as well as president's son and heir apparent. "He has come through the ranks and sought to prepare himself if that's what God had for him in the way of leadership," Bierman said.

January 21, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

For most high school students and their parents plans include the prom, graduation, college but how about a heart attack? That's exactly what happened to Phillip Davis around this time last year. He's alive today because of an easy to use device that will now be available in every high school in Greenville County. Larry Davis might've lost his son Phillip last year. Phillip said, "Had it been at another school, it might've been a different outcome." At the time Mauldin High School was the only one in the county equipped with a defibrillator. That outcome could've been brain damage, even death. Every minute cuts a victim's chance of survival. Ninety-five percent of heart attack victims die before ever reaching a hospital. Automatic External Defibrillators also known as AED's increase survival rates tenfold. James Allen whose niece also plays for Mauldin doesn't think AED's should be just an option for schools. According to him, "That's something that's definitely needed. Anytime you can save a life I would deem it a necessity." Phillip's Coach, Oscar Neeley, was one of the first to respond when Phillip collapsed on the court. Neeley says Greenville should be just the beginning of this AED program. "Actually not just the state of South Carolina, I think it should be all over the nation. Anywhere that you can generate people, anything can happen." Each Greenville High School will have one defibrillator but Larry Davis doesn't think it's enough. He said, "We need to have more than one on site..what about the kids sitting in the classrooms?" "Start A Heart – Save A Life" is a project being managed by a team from Leadership Greenville Class 31 of the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce. This team has partnered with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to create and implement a program for deployment of automated external defibrillators (AED) in public venues in Greenville County. It is not the intent of this program to duplicate any existing efforts to place AEDs in public schools or other places in the county, but rather to focus first on public sites where the deployment of AEDs would potentially meet the greatest needs. It is our intent to significantly increase public awareness about the need for AEDs as a life-saving tool in our community. For more information on AED's and "Start A Heart - Save A Life", visit their web site at [www.startaheart.org](http://www.startaheart.org) or contact Rob Morgan at 864.242-4602.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Although a bright sun and above-freezing temperatures melted most of the snow and ice, officials with school systems in northwest North Carolina decided not to take any chances Monday. Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools decided to "err on the side of safety" and delay school for two hours because secondary roads in the county may still be slippery. Other school systems did the same thing, including Davie, Davidson, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin counties. Toward the mountains, schools also are on two-hour delay, with limited bus routes, in Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga and Wilkes counties. The snowfall Saturday dropped about an inch of snow and caused dozens of accidents in Winston-Salem, but by yesterday, a morning mist and temperatures below freezing mark gave way by early afternoon to a warming sun. The day's high was about 48 degrees. In the foothills, ice dropped off trees, and fog was thick yesterday morning. But the fog burned off and it was 39 degrees by mid-afternoon at the Wilkes County Airport. Main roads such as U.S. 421 were almost dry, and even secondary roads were passable, with some wet or icy spots. Wilkesboro got about 2 inches of snow Saturday. It stayed crusted over with ice Sunday in some places. Other spots had ground already peeking through. The mountain counties had as much as 6 inches of snow Saturday, but temperatures Sunday afternoon were in the mid-30s in Boone. "It's getting where everything is starting to melt," said Troy Shaffoe of Clemmons, who spent the weekend in his cabin five miles west of Blowing Rock. There were several minor accidents in the foothills and mountains Sunday, dispatchers said. In Buncombe County, an Arden woman died Saturday while sledding with her children. Jill Waddell, 36, a pharmaceutical sales representative, was killed while sledding with 8-year-old Emily and 3-year-old Reid Waddell in the family's back yard about noon Saturday. She was sliding down the hill in the yard of their new home when she slammed into a concrete manhole and died almost immediately from a head injury. In the Triad area, most people were relieved the storm wasn't as severe as originally predicted. An inch or so of snow fell Saturday in Greensboro, followed by about a quarter-inch of ice. But there were no reports of major power outages in the Triad. And higher-than-expected temperatures - 49 degrees in Greensboro - left most roads dry by sundown Sunday. "It was much better than we anticipated," said Dale Wyrick, operations manager for the Greensboro Department of Transportation. "We figured that we'd be clearing (snow and ice) for several days." A six-hour break in precipitation was given the credit. Snow and sleet fell early Saturday afternoon before stopping; six hours later the freezing rain began, said Phil Badgett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Raleigh. That delay allowed the atmosphere to warm and lessened the storm's severity.

February 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Devario Nesbit is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Mauldin Middle School. He plays sports and after school his parents say he is supposed to ride a bus with his sister Jazzmine to their friend's house. However, they say the bus driver is a bully. Camille Nesbit, Devario's mother, says the driver will let Jazzmine on the bus, but won't let Devario ride and leaves him at school without transportation. She says it happened at least seven times. "No one contacted me to say Devario has been left behind and given me a reason why," said Nesbit. So the Nesbits sat down with school administrators and the bus driver's supervisor to talk about the problem and this is what she says they told her. "The bus driver did not follow procedures and it was nothing that Devario has done," commented Nesbit. All seemed well until the driver left Devario once again, Patrick Nesbit, Devario's father, says the latest incident happened last week. "I'm a taxpayer so you're driving my bus to bring my son where he needs to go," said Patrick Nesbit. They sent a letter to administrators and the driver's bus supervisor. It accuses the driver of screaming and forcing Devario to sit in a particular seat for no reason when he does ride the bus. A spokesperson with the Greenville County School District informed FOX Carolina that they are aware of the situation and are working to resolve it. The spokesperson also says that as of Monday, February 7th, the bus driver will be switched to a different route. "We have to be role models to children we're responsible and he's not going to be responsible then we don't need him as a driver," said Patrick Nesbit. The Nesbits say switching the driver to a different route may solve their problem, but could cause trouble for another student.

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Clemson University students will pay more to live on campus next year. On Wednesday, trustees approved a 4 percent increase, or about a \$75 to \$115, for each semester. They also approved a new \$25 fee to fund sprinkler installation costs in four residence halls and two apartment complexes, heating and air conditioning improvements and various renovations. The increases will boost housing fees beginning in the fall semester for two freshman dorms by \$75 and three upper-class dorms by \$80-\$100. Clemson apartments will see increases ranging from \$85 to \$115, officials said. Also Wednesday, the board learned that more students are applying to Clemson and with higher test scores. In-state applications are up by 16 percent compared with 2004, and out-of-state applications rose 24 percent, officials said. The average SAT scores for applicants also is up 16 points this year to 1198.

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It's a scene we see now all too often - fights in sports. I'm not talking about pro boxing either, fights during professional and children's games, sometimes even between parents. Today's "Focusing on Youth Sports Seminar" in Spartanburg County addressed those issues. November's brawl between Clemson and USC embarrassed one of Clemson's most famous alums. Six-time Pro Bowl Defensive Tackle Michael Dean Perry says, "We're trying to be examples for these younger kids and that was definitely not good sportsmanship." Perhaps they learned it from the pros because just a day earlier, the Piston and Pacers battled it out. Seminar speaker Dr. Joel Fish is a nationally recognized sports psychologist who realizes that that kind of behavior trickles down to the children. "Just because you throw a uniform on a child doesn't guarantee that he or she is going to have a positive experience." He may be right because just a few days ago, a full out brawl broke out at a girl's high school basketball game in Alabama. Parents as well as children felt it was important to attend today's seminar. Parent Tammy Revels says, "It was real informative, a really good seminar, we learned a lot." Her son may be just in little league but to him, it's so much more. He said, "It's like we're in the world series or something." Dr. Fish is hopeful this seminar made a difference no matter how small. "I'd like to believe that we reached a lot of kids." For more information on how you can teach your kid to be a good sport, check out the web site <http://www.sirc.ca/>

February 7, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Backers of a broader sex education curriculum in North Carolina schools point to a state Department of Public Instruction survey as proof that parents want children to have more information. The supporters of a broader course of study say they will lobby the state Board of Education to tell students more than to wait until they're married to have sex. Howard Lee, chairman of the State Board of Education, said he has not looked closely at a recent state survey, which was mailed to the board members last month. Lee said he will talk to the rest of the board to determine interest in taking a closer look at the sex ed policy. The survey showed parents want sex education to begin earlier, to involve more class time and to include more information about contraceptives and the prevention of sexually transmitted disease. Schools in some areas offer more explicit instruction but more than 100 of the state's 117 school systems teach abstinence. Supporters of comprehensive sex education say they want a broader curriculum available in all communities. They also say schools should continue teaching that abstinence is the surest way to avoid pregnancy and disease, but want parents to be able to opt out of that program. Some parents dominate the discussion about sex education, but the survey showed that many parents want their children to have comprehensive information, said Melissa Reed, executive director of NARAL Pro-choice North Carolina, which is leading an effort to reform state guidelines. "When issues such as responsible sex ed are brought up, a very loud

and vocal minority of parents will inundate them with letters and phone calls and visits," Reed said. Bill Brooks is executive director of the N.C. Family Policy Council, which in 1995 pushed the abstinence-only law through the General Assembly. "Prior to North Carolina's abstinence bill, schools were teaching: 'We know you're going to be sexually active. Wear a condom and you'll be OK,'" Brooks said. State Sen. Kay Hagan, D-Guilford, said she thinks a review of the state's curriculum is in order. Hagan, a proponent of comprehensive sex education, was alarmed by a congressional report in December that documented factual errors in sex education curricula across the nation.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

North Carolina has signed a \$60,000 contract with a company that will analyze standardized test data from public school and search for red flags that may indicate cheating. North Carolina is one of three states - South Carolina and Delaware are the others - to sign a contract with the Utah-based company called Caveon. A co-founder said the 2-year-old company also is negotiating with about a dozen other states. Most state education leaders do not suspect rampant cheating, but say the test results are so important now - determining school rankings, teacher bonuses and federal aid - that it's better to take action before problems are found. Some argue the hiring alone will scare cheaters, the same way burglars avoid homes with yard signs warning of alarm systems. "There are people who put those signs in their yards who don't even have those systems, because they know it is a deterrent," said North Carolina testing director Lou Fabrizio, who said the timing coincides with a review of the state's tests. The state signed the contract Monday. "We're just trying to be as proactive and as comprehensive as we can," Fabrizio said. Caveon uses a process called data forensics to look for unusual patterns: Kids answering hard questions correctly and missing easy ones. An abnormally high pass rate in one class. Tests with several wrong answers erased and replaced with the right ones. "One of the things I'm looking for is evidence of coaching or proxy test-taking," said Caveon chief scientist Dennis Maynes. "In an educational setting, the greatest concern is (that) the administration and teachers are actually doing the cheating, not the students." There's no way to know how common cheating is, but Caveon and other analysts estimate it could occur with as many as 10 percent of school tests nationwide. Within the past year, cheating allegations nationwide have prompted officials in Texas, Indiana, Mississippi and Arizona to launch investigations, suspend staff or throw out scores. And recently questions have been raised in the Carolinas. In February 2003, the Guilford County School District disciplined several employees suspected of sharing state standardized test questions with high school students in advance. It's unlikely Caveon will find much wrongdoing in the Carolinas, said Colby Cochran, Rowan-Salisbury's testing director, who helped revise the testing code of ethics. But they will be checking things local districts don't typically examine, and that will help make the scores "beyond reproach." "This is the era of accountability," Cochran said. "Somebody else needs to look at you from time to time to see if you are really doing what you say you are doing."

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Gov. Mark Sanford's proposal to give tax credits to parents who send their children to private schools would take \$354 million of out public schools, according to a report released by public school leaders on Tuesday. The Miley and Associates report found that each school district on average would lose \$4.1 million if the tax credit was fully implemented in five years. Harry Miley, a former economic adviser to former Republican Govs. Carroll Campbell and David Beasley, prepared the report for the South Carolina School Boards Association and the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. Miley took aim at last year's study released by the South Carolina Policy Council, a Columbia group that backs school tax credits. That report, produced by a Clemson professor, found that schools would have about \$600 more per student when a child leaves a public school classroom for a private school. Miley's report says the Policy Council study has several flaws. He said it didn't take into account the fixed costs that remain when a student leaves a classroom. "I didn't think this quite passed the common sense approach," Miley said. "Where are the cost savings? ... Is the teacher fired? ... Is the heat turned down?" Ed McMullen, the Policy Council's chief executive, stood by Clemson economist Cotton Lindsay's report. It was

"substantial, cutting edge data and research that is pioneering new ground" and is "highly regarded" nationally with economists, McMullen said. The governor has said the legislation would enhance school choice and create competition that would make public schools better. Miley explains that public schools face different costs when students leave, which was not taken into account in the Policy Council's study. For instance, the Horry County School District gets \$938 from the state Education Finance Act fund for each student, while the Hampton 2 School District gets \$1,641, Miley said. There also are differences within the student population, such as more may be spent on special needs and gifted students. Instead of saving \$600 every time a student leaves, the different needs of students may actually take between \$570 and \$2,040 out of schools, Miley's report says. Miley said the questions raised by the report merit further study before the Legislature adopts a tax credit. "There are more questions unanswered than answered," he said. The study validates what critics have been saying, said Porter Stewart, president of the school board group. "The state cannot afford nor is it morally right to publicly fund two systems of education in South Carolina," Stewart said. McMullen said the study focuses on an outdated version of the tax credit proposal. "There is nothing reliable in what they've released," McMullen said. Miley said the reports calculations include both the version that failed last year and what currently is before the Legislature. The Republican governor's office stood by the tax credit plan, saying opponents include people that profit from the current bureaucracy. "We've got a great deal for the current education bureaucracy," Sanford spokesman Will Folks said. "It can keep over two-thirds of the \$9,800 it currently spends attempting to educate each individual child and we'll give parents access to the marketplace with the other third to make sure someone is actually educating that child," Folks said. He said it was important to identify people looking out for the interests of children "as opposed to the bureaucracy that's padding its wallet." Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, a Democrat, said Miley's study makes sense. "I don't see how any reasonable, fair-minded person can continue to cite the Policy Council's so-called research as authoritative and unbiased." The council "continues to sacrifice truth and accuracy in the pursuit of its political agenda," she said.

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Major changes may soon hit the books for parents in Greenville County . Your children may be forced to change schools just as they're starting to settle in and it's all because there are too many students in the classrooms. The reassignment proposal could affect nearly 1600 Greenville County families and Tuesday night a smaller crowd than expected made it clear they are not happy with the proposed changes. Below is how schools would be affected under the current plan: If you're child goes to **Hillcrest High**, He or she may move to **Woodmont High**. If you're child goes to **Mauldin High**, He or she may move to **J.L. Mann High**. If you're child goes to **Bryson Middle**, **Hillcrest Middle** or **Woodmont Middle**. He or she may move to **South Central Middle**. If you're child goes to **Mauldin Middle** or **Riverside Middle**, He or she may move to **New Beck Middle Academy**. If you're child goes to **Mauldin Elementary**, He or she may move to **Greenbrier Elementary**. If you're child goes to **Bells Crossing Elementary** or **Bryson Elementary**, He or she move to **New Southeast Area Elementary**. Currently, it is not known which subdivisions would be affected by these proposed changes. There is one more public hearing and the school reassignments before a final decision is made in March.

February 13, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The kids at Hall Fletcher Elementary School in West Asheville don't much care that the lettuce in the salads they wolf down at lunchtime is grown just a few miles away on a farm in Madison County. The fact that the lettuce is much fresher and healthier, that the grower is able to make a living after giving up tobacco-farming and that the money to pay for the produce stays in the community that flies right over these students' heads. All they know is that the salad tastes good. "I always get salad when we have steak nuggets (on the regular hot-lunch line), because they're really hard and frozen and stuff," said fifth-grader Aaron Higgins. "But even if we weren't having steak nuggets, I would have gotten salad anyway." As he meticulously picked out and discarded the red cabbage and chunks of cucumber from the mound of other salad fixings, Aaron expressed mild interest when he was told that the lettuce was grown by a local farmer and delivered to his school just a few days earlier. "That's pretty cool," he said through a mouthful. "I guess it's good because it's fresh." That's the message school systems across

America are trying to send to students as they wrestle with alarming trends toward childhood obesity, inactivity and unhealthy living habits. Fresh fruits and vegetables are the ideal; deep fryers and fat-laden comfort foods are becoming the culinary equivalent of evil. Unfortunately, most school systems' child nutrition departments are self-sustaining, receiving no support from the system and relying almost exclusively on government reimbursements for free- and reduced-price lunches to run their programs. Also unfortunately, fresh foods are more expensive. So child nutrition directors are caught in the crossfire of budget constraints versus mandates to serve healthier, more expensive foods. Emily Jackson, director of the Growing Minds/Farm to School program of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, has had her eye on that dilemma for years, making small inroads by helping establish gardens on school grounds and teaching children about the joy of planting, growing and eating fresh foods. Last May, ASAP sponsored a Farm to School workshop that brought together farmers, child nutrition directors and other food service personnel to see what could be done to marry the goals of good nutrition with fiscal reality. After months of planning and negotiation, just before the schools' holiday break, Madison County farmer Dewain Mackey began supplying Asheville City Schools with his hydroponic lettuce, a nutritious variety grown in pots without soil. It is a move that delights Cindy Lawler, child nutrition director for the city schools, who attended the workshop last May and was determined to take this first step toward providing healthier produce to the system's children. "It's costing a little bit more, but it's worth it," Lawler said. "It's such a fresh product, and it keeps the money we're spending in this area. And it's delicious." At Hall Fletcher, the kids agree. They also have embraced the fresh fruits and vegetables that are set out in bins in the cafeteria throughout the day, compliments of a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant is one of just 25 awarded to schools in North Carolina as part of a pilot program to promote health and wellness. As the children enter the cafeteria en route to the lunch lines, they swarm toward the bins of apples, star fruit, kiwi, yogurt-covered raisins, dried pineapple and apple, pears, peeled and sectioned oranges, cantaloupe, baby carrots and other fresh produce. They are welcome to take pieces of fruit home, and their parents are welcome as well. "We go through 30 or 40 cases a week," said Linda Kirkland, Hall Fletcher's child nutrition manager. That's a very good thing, said Hall Fletcher Principal Sam Listenbee, as is the children's willingness to choose salad over steak nuggets or mac and cheese. "These kids are making healthy choices, and I'm surprised about that," Listenbee said. "We're trying to get these kids looking at lifestyle choices at an early age, but I didn't realize they would actually choose fruits and salads." Lawler isn't surprised at all. "There's been a lot of press where people say, 'Well, they'll eat it if you put it out,'" she said. "We know they'll eat it, and we're seeing it every day. The problem is that we can't afford what we'd like to put out there. That's why I love the (pilot fruit program) like we have at Hall Fletcher. If only we could get that in all the schools, not just one pilot program." While the children at Hall Fletcher and other Asheville schools are reaping the benefits of healthier foods, Dewain and Kathy Mackey are making a good chunk of their living providing lettuce and, soon, strawberries to Asheville, Madison County and Mars Hill College students. It took five years and a \$35,000 investment in greenhouses and hydroponic equipment to get the lettuce-growing operation going. But the Mackeys, like many other farmers who formerly grew tobacco, knew it was time to find a new niche and decided to take the risk. He hopes other farmers will take the risk and begin providing the schools with other produce grown traditionally or hydroponically. "All these schools could use potatoes, tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, cucumbers potatoes can be put on cold storage to be used on the potato bars, and the schools could use a lot," he said. "We're real excited about this, and I really think it's going to turn into a full-time thing. And we've got three kids in school who will be eating this food, too." Jackson is excited about the prospects of more fresh food coming into the local schools as farmers seek new ways to keep their farmland and make a living. But there is a fine balance that requires much thought and planning, she said. "What you have to do is build supply and demand kind of simultaneously," she said. "It's not just about convincing a school to do it. You have to have a farmer be interested and have the product you need and have reliability and dependability. It's not something you can just plunge into." ASAP is working with schools in Mitchell, Yancey and Madison counties to expand the Farm to School connection, and Jackson is eager to begin more school-based garden projects in elementary schools. "We're trying to build this up not just for Dewain and the two school systems, but for all of western North Carolina and for more farmers," Jackson said. "This is a national movement, Farm to School, and it's something that can benefit everyone \_ the children, the farmers and the local economy." The benefits extend beyond physical nutrition, said Hall Fletcher librarian and media coordinator Beverly McBrayer. "We've now got kids interested in learning about star fruits and foods they've never seen before," she said. "They're checking out books about food." Fifth-grade teacher Craig Anderson said he's seen new issues emerging in his classroom, grinning when he described the school policy against bringing food into classrooms. "It's not such a bad thing to see a kid trying to sneak a bite of star fruit in class instead of a cookie," he said.

#### DESCRIPTION:

Some home schoolers say they were having a meeting in Simpsonville Park when an officer started bullying them. The group of home schoolers included 6 mothers and about 15 to 20 kids, every Wednesday for the past 5 years the group has come to Simpsonville Park to socialize and meet with each other, but they say this past Wednesday was like no other. One of the mothers in the group, Jan Blanchard says, "We were just sitting there talking..." "I heard a man yelling take your hands out of your pocket and I turned around and he was yelling at one of the boys in the group," says another mother Priscilla Adams. Priscilla's 14-year-old son, Glenn says, "He started yelling and screaming at this boy for having a knife, then pushed him down." Priscilla says he then "went for another boy a 16-year-old, yelled at him something about having a knife, he pushed him to the ground." Simpsonville Police say a call came in that someone in the park had a knife. They say they responded as they would to any call like that, but the officer responding to the call was dressed in plain clothes and did not identify himself at first. Priscilla says, "I was frightened, I really didn't know who he was." That's when Priscilla says one of the other mothers tried to stop him, by getting between the officer and the student. "She was trying to protect a student, we didn't know what was happening, he could've been a murderer, a rapist or anything, we just, he was attacking one of our kids and we were trying to stop him," says Jan. "She turned to Jan and said call the police and that's when he told us he was the police. It didn't even occur to me he was a policeman, he acted so insane," says Priscilla. Police Chief Reese says officers do not have to identify themselves immediately and that the officer was wearing a badge and a gun. But Jan says, "A crazy man come running up screaming, you're not looking at his belt to see if he's an officer." The parents say the student did have a small hunting knife in a sheath on his belt, but never once had it out. The incident will keep this group from the park for good. "The police station is right beside it, he could just come down at any time and do anything he wanted to," says Glenn. The mother who tried to stop the officer was arrested and charged with assault on an officer, the 16-year-old boy was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Simpsonville Police say they will not comment any further because the case is under investigation.

February 21, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Schools across the state are having trouble finding teachers who want to move to the principal's office. The decline has been caused by long hours, greater public scrutiny driven by school reform and a reluctance of many to give up the bonus pay they receive if they're veteran or nationally certified teachers, according to school district personnel directors. "It's getting increasingly difficult to get people into principalships," said Kathy Tuten, director of the state Department of Education's office of school leadership. "It is a national problem." Lexington-Richland 5 used to get at least two dozen applications for an open principal job. Now, it's typically half that, district personnel director Mattie Dillon said. "We're just finding each year the pool is getting smaller and smaller," Dillon said. "Many people are now shying away from administration because of all of the laws, the regulations and the accountability that seem to make it a hardship." Salaries are another problem. A teacher with National Board Certification automatically qualifies for an additional \$12,500-per-year pay boost in Lexington-Richland 5 and would have to give up that bonus to move into a lesser-paying assistant principal's job, Dillon said. Many districts have turned to grooming potential principals and changing the perceptions some teachers have of administrators. Spartanburg 7 has had a long-running leadership training program for teachers who think they might want to be principals and has worked closely with two colleges to offer courses to strengthen teachers' resumes. Participants take classes after school, on Saturdays and during the summer, as well as participate in internships. "There's no doubt there are not that many (candidates) to look at, especially experienced ones," said Spartanburg 7's Don Hendrix, who has been a personnel director for 20 years. The state also has expanded its leadership and business-oriented training for district superintendents and principals, sponsoring a yearlong training program exclusively for assistant principals. Program participants get training in a broad range of topics from crisis management to balancing a budget to dealing with the media.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:



Five teachers have been selected as finalists for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year award, according to the state Department of Education. The five educators have a combined 79 years of experience. All are National Board Certified, which qualifies each for a \$7,500 annual salary supplement from the Legislature for 10 years. The winner, who will be named May 7 during a gala banquet, will receive \$25,000 and use of a sports car for a year. The four other finalists will receive \$10,000. The finalists are: Kimberly Taylor, a third-grade teacher at Lake Murray Elementary School in Lexington-Richland 5: Cliff Barrineau, a mathematics and SAT preparation teacher at Dreher High School in Richland 1: Katherine OQuinn, a music/chorus teacher at Round Top Elementary School in Richland 2: Stephanie Seay, a kindergarten teacher at Wellford Elementary School in Spartanburg 5: Donna M. Barrick, a music teacher at Houston Elementary School in Spartanburg 7. The winner automatically becomes the states nominee for national Teacher of the Year honors that will be announced in the spring of 2006.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

One senator says it will create a statewide model to battle bullying and schools can tailor that model to their specific needs. The news comes as little comfort to one family that says a bully went too far at school. After a day of homework, 13-year-old Matthew Durham likes to spend some time playing his video game. It's his way of kicking back before he prepares for another long day at Northwood Middle School in Taylors. However, back in December, Matthew's father, Shane Durham, says his son walked into a boys bathroom at school and as he used it, he says another 13-year-old student yelled at him to move. "As he turned around, the perpetrator shoved his head into the urinal knocking him unconscious," said Durham. When he woke-up he had a bruised head, a black eye and popped blood vessels. Investigators with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office charged the 13-year-old with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. Shane Durham says for a while, school administrators suspended the bully, but now he's back. "How many children does it take to get hurt seriously before the school district says 'hey we have a problem let's do something about it,'" said Durham. Katie Fayssoux is the Assistant Solicitor in Greenville County. "Any violence that is occurring in school we take very seriously because every child should have the opportunity to learn," commented Fayssoux. Depending on the crime and how severe it is could determine how a case is prosecuted. "It's unacceptable for us to have to put our child in this environment," said Shane Durham. Administrators with the school district say this is the conduct code which explains what kind of behavior they expect from students, but they don't have a specific bullying policy.

March 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A high-tech threat connected to a Greenville County School mentions a specific student but some parents want to know why they never heard about it. The scary threat comes from a student at Blue Ridge Middle School. A parent tells us her daughter was the target and now she's worried the student making the threat may be allowed to return. FOX Carolina learned the suspended student created a gothic-like website from home. The website singled out a particular student and said "\_\_\_ must die" The website also talked about a slow, painful death, and drowning. The incident was investigated by the school's Resource Officer, the Sheriff's Office, the Solicitor's Office and the Department of Social Services. And it's been kept under wraps until we started asking questions. Cindy Hoop, a concerned parent, says, "I didn't know anything like that had happened. If my child is in danger or any children, and I drive a school bus for the county. I'm very shocked over this". We asked district administrators about the internet threat and they responded saying, "it's a community issue, not a school issue". Sandra McKinney, State Director of Bully Police U.S.A., says, "They're part of the community. Don't they realize that"? Bully Police U.S.A. is an organization trying to crack down on the type of cyber bullying being investigated in Greenville County. McKinney says every parent at Blue Ridge Middle has a right to know about the cyber threat, whether it was made against their child or not. "I think we've got a problem. I think the schools want to cover this up. They don't want to admit they have a problem", says McKinney. We're told the student in question was suspended in late January but may be allowed to return in April. Administrators are also considering expelling her all together. The solicitor says no charges were filed because state statute requires the name of the person being threatened to be specific. The website reportedly only had the first name of a student, not a first and last.

March 7, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Westside High School science teacher is on administrative leave after a State Highway Patrolman says they found her naked with a 17 year-old TL Hanna High School student. It happened this past weekend at the Brow Road Ramp in Anderson County. The officer says 33 year-old Donna Galloway was naked when he approached an SUV. The 17 year-old pulled up his pants and jumped out of the vehicle. The age of consent in South Carolina is 16 years-old. No charges are filed, but the Anderson County Superintendent of District 5 is investigating the situation.

March 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sandy Fowler has taught for 13 years, has a master's degree, and is a former Mooresville school district teacher of the year. But according to a new federal definition, though Fowler is nationally board certified, she's insufficiently qualified in the subjects she teaches. The problem is that Fowler teaches several subjects to students in an alternative school, and she hasn't "proven" herself in each topic. It's a scenario that helps explain why educators across North Carolina worry a well-intentioned federal law could worsen statewide teacher shortages. The No Child Left Behind Act requires school districts to show that all teachers in core academic subjects are "highly qualified" by next summer. Teachers must have earned a bachelor's degree, obtained a state license and proven their mastery of subjects they teach by methods such as taking a state test or undergoing evaluations. In rapidly growing North Carolina - where districts add 10,000 teachers a year - educators warn they won't be able to hire enough who meet requirements under the law. One looming problem is the state's stringent licensing standards. North Carolina requires teachers to score higher on a national test than some other states. Teachers moving from other parts of the country now have up to two years to earn North Carolina licenses. But under the federal law, they have to qualify before entering classrooms. About 80 percent of the 110,000 teachers in North Carolina and South Carolina meet the federal requirements. The rest can choose either to receive additional training or retire. The U.S. Education Department has not yet decided what penalties districts will face for not finding enough teachers meeting the standards. High-poverty schools that receive federal aid and don't meet the requirement would have to send letters home, telling parents their children don't have highly qualified teachers. If North Carolina's tougher standards deter teachers from moving to the state, that's a local decision, federal education officials said. The goal of the federal law is to boost student achievement, they said. "A teacher cannot teach what he or she doesn't know," said Rene Islas of the U.S. Education Department. If schools cannot find teachers who meet the standard, they may be forced to try unconventional methods, educators say. Students could tune into Internet broadcasts led by instructors in other schools. Top teachers could split their time between schools, teaching longer classes that don't meet every day. Or classes may end up being taught by long-term subs, whose minimum requirement in some districts is a high school diploma. That's "the grand irony of the whole thing," said Walter Hart, Lincoln County's associate superintendent for human resources. "It's one of those situations of unintended consequences."

March 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

North Carolina is near the bottom and losing ground among states in the money it puts into schools, spending \$6,635 per student in federal, state and local funds in 2003, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report. The state's ranking dropped from 36th in 2001 to 39th in 2002 and to 40th in 2003 among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the report released Thursday said. "It isn't new for us to be a low-spending state," said John Dornan, director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, a policy organization in public education. "But a downward trend for three years in a row is not a good sign." Even though the ranking dropped, the state did spend slightly more per pupil over the period, from \$6,368 in 2001 to \$6,635 in 2003, the report said. The bulk of the revenue for North Carolina's public school systems in 2003 came from the state, which gave nearly \$6 billion. Local sources contributed about \$3 billion, while the federal government gave nearly \$900 million, the study said. In his budget proposal this year, Gov. Mike Easley recommended spending \$6.7 billion on public schools, up from \$6.2 billion last

year. He has argued for a state lottery to bolster school funding, but has met opposition from state legislators. Dan Gerlach, Easley's senior adviser for fiscal affairs, said North Carolina students have improved on national tests in reading, math and writing over recent years. "We're continuing to make educational progress," he said. Dornan said it's true that North Carolina students are doing better on national and state tests, which speaks well of their teachers. "They're doing this with considerably less resources than their colleagues in other states," he said. But public educators complain that funding is inadequate, especially in rural areas, and it affects their ability to keep the best teachers. In Vance County, one of five that sued the state in 1994 over education funding, schools superintendent Norman Shearin said he can't offer competitive salaries to attract enough qualified teachers for the 15 schools in his 8,300-pupil district. The starting salary for teachers there is \$26,000 a year, \$15,000 less than the starting salary for a nurse in the county, and about \$3,000 less than for a rookie teacher hired in Wake County. "The No. 1 issue we have is keeping highly qualified teachers in our classrooms," Shearin said. The counties have won their case, which claimed that children in poorer districts were not getting the same educational opportunities as children in wealthier systems. But the state is still sorting out how to respond to a judge's order to do more to help struggling students. In Hoke County, another party to the lawsuit, public schools don't have enough money to buy badly needed teaching materials or to retain teachers, said school superintendent Allen Strickland. Strickland said the county spends about \$2,200 in federal, state and local money on each student - far below the state average and well under the national mark. "I lose one-third of my teaching staff every single year," he said. "The salaries we are able to pay them are not comparable to other districts."

March 19, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Clemson University launched the "Call Me Mister" program whose main purpose is to train and certify African American men who want to teach. One participant told Fox this program is the best thing to ever happen to him. Hayward Jean teaches fourth grade at Greendale Elementary in Aiken County. He says, "I never thought I wanted to be a teacher ..what Call Me Mister really stood for was more than being a teacher but being a role model." Less than one percent of elementary school teachers in South Carolina are African American men. The number is not much higher in the rest of the country either. Jean says it's time African American men stepped out of the box. "I have a student who says that he knows more individuals that are in prison than in college that are male." All the teachers said they want to have a hand in producing the next doctor, lawyer, and even U.S. president. Jean believes the sky is limitless for his star student Donald Rogers. Donald says, "Mr. Jean is a great teacher and he teaches me to be a role model." Jean says teaching can also change the life of the teacher as well. "Teaching is truly a liberating experience. I don't say this lightly but I would teach for free. I thank God for this blessing. Jean's goal is to go beyond the classroom. He begins class every day by having his students recite a creed, a motto both he and the students live by. A motto that says nothing is out of their reach and that they should strive for excellence every single day. **Partner schools include:** Benedict College - Contact Person: Dr. Janeen Whitty, [wittyj@benedict.edu](mailto:wittyj@benedict.edu) 803-253-5330; Claflin University - Contact Person: Dr. Tina Marshall-Bradley, [tmarshallbradley@claflin.edu](mailto:tmarshallbradley@claflin.edu) 803-535-5225; Clemson University - Contact Person: Winston E. Holton, [mister@clemson.edu](mailto:mister@clemson.edu) 864-656-6333; Morris College - Contact Person: Rudolph Wheeler, [rwheeler@morris.edu](mailto:rwheeler@morris.edu) 803-934-3193; South Carolina State University - Contact Person: Dr. Ronald Speight, [zs\\_respeight@scsu.edu](mailto:zs_respeight@scsu.edu) 803-536-7071; **Two Year Institutions:** Midlands Technical College - Contact: Dr. Paul Livingston, [livingstonp@midlandstech.edu](mailto:livingstonp@midlandstech.edu) 803-738-7655; Orangeburg - Calhoun Technical College - Contact: Mr. Frederick Cooper, [cooperf@octech.edu](mailto:cooperf@octech.edu) 803-535-1436; Tri - County Technical College - Contact: Dr. Gwen Owens, [gowens@tctc.edu](mailto:gowens@tctc.edu) 864-646-1394; Trident Technical College - Contact: Dr. Mario White, [mario.white@tridenttech.edu](mailto:mario.white@tridenttech.edu) 843-722-5556

March 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Some of the state's biggest philanthropists - Republicans and Democrats - have donated more than \$75,000 to produce a short documentary film on school conditions in poor, rural counties. The producers hope the images of crumbling walls, leaky roofs, faulty fire alarms and unheated classrooms will shock politicians into action. "When you have children in gloves and jackets in classes where the temperature is 50 degrees, that's not acceptable,"

said Columbia lawyer John Rainey, the film's initiator. DVDs and videos of the film, called "Corridor of Shame," will be given within a few weeks to the state's 170 legislators, Gov. Mark Sanford and community leaders across the state. The annual debate over money for public schools will continue, but in the meantime, someone needs to spend money immediately to do things like fix fire alarms, Rainey said. "We have a tsunami right now in these counties. We can't give a few million to them? What is wrong?" Rainey said. No philanthropist gave more than \$5,000 to the film, Rainey said. Contributors included the Nord Family Foundation, the Self Family Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Springs Close Foundation, Gayle Averyt, Kirk Finlay III, Joel Smith, Hayne Hipp, and Charlotte and Alan Kahn. Many have political connections. Rainey, for example, is a major fund-raiser for Sanford and U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, both Republicans. The 58-minute documentary took five months to make. Producers visited six rural counties, shooting 120 hours of tape, most of it interviews with teachers, parents and administrators. Many of the conditions the film depicts were aired in testimony at a 101-day trial last year. In that case, eight poor, rural school districts sued the state, alleging public education in their districts doesn't meet "minimally adequate" education guaranteed by the state constitution. Judge Thomas W. Cooper is expected to rule later this year. The crux of the dispute is that local property taxes are used to pay for public schools and poor, rural counties don't have the tax base to improve schools and attract quality teachers. "Corridor of Shame" puts a human face on the testimony heard in Cooper's courtroom, said Bud Ferillo, whose Columbia public relations firm produced the film. "Our film certainly is an advocacy piece," Ferillo said. "But the facts speak for themselves. Conditions in our rural public schools cry out for immediate attention." One of the film's most powerful moments comes when former state Commerce Secretary Charlie Way, a multimillionaire Charleston developer, tells about his car breaking down near a rural school. When he went to the school to telephone for help, Way was shocked. "It was the most deplorable building condition that I have ever seen in my life," he exclaims on camera. Sanford spokesman Will Folks said the governor's office has requested a copy of the film. Folks said the governor is committed to improving education by offering parents a tax credit to help pay for their children to change public schools or go to private schools. "Money is obviously not making it through the bureaucracy to where it is needed," Folks said.

March 26, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Critics say South Carolina public schools' zero tolerance policies for students who break rules could be making the state's poor high school graduation rate worse. With few exceptions, students in South Carolina are expelled automatically when they break rules banning alcohol, drugs and weapons from school grounds. Violent behavior and a history of insubordination also can be grounds for banishment. Parents can appeal expulsions to the school board, and expelled students are usually allowed to attend alternative schools in the district. But some educators, attorneys and parents say it's time to rethink punishment that could be driving some students out of the system. "The utilization of zero tolerance as a disciplinary tool has grown scandalous," said Jay Elliott, a Columbia attorney specializing in family law. "Too many innocent kids are being forced out of school or unfairly punished." Robert Schwartz directs the Juvenile Law Center, a nonprofit public interest law firm for children in Philadelphia that opposes zero tolerance policies. "What we've seen is a rash of suspensions, expulsions and arrests for inadvertent, unintentional violations of school rules," Schwartz said. "That's where zero tolerance has run amok." Former Lexington-Richland 5 teacher Barbara Anderson agrees. Anderson's daughter was expelled from Chapin Middle School a month ago after Anderson says she was tricked into taking a sip of tequila on school grounds. As Mormons, "drinking is not part of our family culture," Anderson said. Her 13-year-old daughter, who had earned above-average grades at her former school, now attends the district's alternative school for students who have trouble staying in a regular classroom. "For someone like (my daughter), this place is the kiss of death," Anderson said. In his travels as state PTA president, Chuck Saylor said he hears few complaints about districts' discipline policies. "Most parents I talk with support zero tolerance," said Saylor, who also is a Greenville County school trustee. "It sends a clear message, from border to border in this state, that we have high expectations in public schools with regard to behavior." "Is it a perfect system?" he said. "Probably not. At least it's equal." Congress compelled public schools to get tough with students when it passed the "Gun-free Schools Act of 1994." Schools were told to expel, for one year, any student who "brings a firearm or weapon to school" or risk losing federal aid. In the 10 years since, discipline codes have evolved to include alcohol, drugs and disruptive behavior as reasons to jettison students for a first offense. University of South Carolina professor Lorin Anderson, who studies education trends, said zero tolerance is not a deterrent to bad behavior. "If it were working, wouldn't you see a decrease in the

frequency of this kind of behavior over the past 10 years?" Anderson said. Expulsion numbers and trends are difficult to pin down, state educators say, though the state Department of Education is working to rectify that. To satisfy the federal No Child Left Behind law, states are collecting discipline statistics on suspensions, expulsions and truancy, said J.C. Ballew of the state agency's safe schools and youth services office. In gathering the data, Ballew said he has found "zero tolerance gets applied in a number of circumstances. There are districts that have applied that to disrupting schools, for example."

*Attachments*



*Environment*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
January 5, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News

**DESCRIPTION:**

Just weeks after one of the biggest meteor showers in years, a new object is visible in the night sky over the northern hemisphere. According to Space.com , Comet Machholz will pass just over 32 million miles from Earth on the night of Jan. 5-6, and experts say it's clearly visible in the southern sky, even to the naked eye. Discovered in late August by Donald Machholz in California, the Machholz comet has been brightening as it continues its approach to Earth. The comet is climbing in the night sky, just slightly east of due south, through the west side of the Taurus constellation. On Jan. 7, the comet will be visible near the Pleiades star cluster. Experts said that the comet is highly visible at this point because it's traveling outside the Earth's orbit and is illuminated by the sun. Despite being visible without aid, experts said using binoculars or telescopes to spot the comet will provide the best view. After zipping by Earth, experts said the comet could make a return trip -- in about 119,000 years.

January 8, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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**DESCRIPTION:**

A series of tropical storms that swept over North Carolina's mountains in September left about \$400 million in losses not covered by federal assistance, according to preliminary estimates. The numbers compiled by staff for the Joint Legislative Committee for Hurricane Relief. Buncombe and Haywood counties each reported unfunded damages of more than \$58 million each. The panel may seek a special session of the General Assembly to address these needs before the start of the next regular session on Jan. 26. "These are self-reported, unedited numbers" from 17 counties, said Joe McKinney, executive director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council, a regional planning organization. Ashe and Allegheny counties reported no unmet needs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has already paid out more than \$62.5 million to individuals and families. Complicating the final tally is differences in the methods some counties used to report damage estimates. Hendersonville and Henderson County turned in separate estimates that appeared to total \$64 million, more than areas that were hit harder such as Haywood County, where downtown Canton was twice submerged. The remnants of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan were blamed for killing 11 people in the mountains. Forty-six counties were declared federal disaster areas. State legislators from western North Carolina want a special session of the General Assembly before the regular session opens. After Hurricane Floyd hit eastern North Carolina more than five years ago, state lawmakers held a special session and allocated more than \$800 million in flood relief.

January 14, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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**DESCRIPTION:**

Some Laurens County residents forced to evacuate their homes because of a tornado-sparked fire at the TNT Logistics distribution center returned to their homes early Friday. At least one tornado struck the county shortly after 7:30 p.m. Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. The storm lifted part of the roof off the TNT Logistics distribution center, then slammed it back down on the building, damaging the electric system and sparking a fire. Between 75 and 100 people living within a half-mile of the building were evacuated because firefighters worried the blaze could burn tires stored in the building, authorities said. The fire was under control early Friday and

people were allowed to return home. All the workers at the center were able to escape without serious injury, sheriff's Capt. Chris Hudson said. Some minor damage to buildings was reported in other parts of the county.

January 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Firefighters are watching hot spots after a tornado sparked a massive blaze. That fire destroyed a section of the TNT distribution facility in Laurens County. It's a distribution center for Michelin Tires. Jimmy McMahan used to work there. "I used to load tires onto trailer tractors," said McMahan. Thousands of tires are stored at the facility, many of which are now destroyed. Dozens of firefighters from surrounding counties are doing what they can to help keep potential flare-ups under control. Assessment teams from TNT headquarters in Jacksonville, FL and in Laurens County are surveying the damage. "A quarter of the building is destroyed. It burned to the ground." Ernest Segars is the Laurens County Administrator. He surveyed the damage in a helicopter. "They have equipment inside the building and are creating their own fire line in hopes of preventing any more problems," said Segars. Investigators say the million 400 thousand square foot facility is built with durable fire walls, which they believe prevented more destruction. Firefighters are expected to stay at the facility until hot spots are out. Administrators of TNT are asking employees to call an employee emergency notification number at least one hour before scheduled shifts. (864) 682-7800 EXT. 50

January 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

This may not be Kansas but to people who live in Laurens County, last night's twister was like something from the Wizard of Oz. Margaret Babb's house was one of the many in the tornado's path of destruction. She said, "I heard something like a freight train coming but what hurt me the worst is I didn't know where my children were." Just down the road it sure looked like a freight train ripped through her daughter's home. According to her daughter Ann Pinson, if everyone had been home they would've been in the den which was now scattered among the trees. Ann Pinson said, "We're lucky to be alive, all of us are live but this house is gone." Ann and her husband bought their home just three years ago and now it's been condemned. The tornado's wrath lasted only thirty seconds and yet it could take the Pinson family years to re-build their lives. And although their bed is now in the trees and the only thing left standing is the bug zapper, her husband, Gene Pinson, feels blessed. "You know our loss is immaterial we could get new clothing, a new TV, but the thought of losing three or four hundred people makes you feel weak just thinking about it." Gene was referring to the wrestling match that was going on last night at the gym just two hundred yards from his home. Across the street Gerald Johnson's home no longer has a roof. He said, "From now on I guess I'll be cold and if it rains I reckon I'll be wet with no ceiling up there." A rodeo wrangler, Mr. Johnson rides horses for a living and he rode this tornado with the same ease. According to him, "I've been divorced three times and rebuilt everytime I left so a little old tornado ain't gonna kill me. I guarantee you, I'll run through that. Gerald Johnson is going to be sitting on this heel for a long from now." Gene Pinson may not be an award winning cowboy like his neighbor but he sure does feel like a winner anyway. He said, "I feel like George Baily - it is a wonderful life and you know sometimes you take things for granted...Laurens county is a good place to live."

January 29, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A winter blast brought snow and freezing rain. The mess turned interstates into ice rinks as drivers skated on road and slammed into ditches. Chad Pleasant lost control of his truck. "I was coming around through there and I felt the truck start to slide instead of locking it up I just rode it on out," commented Pleasant. The tires of his truck started spinning when he rounded a sharp icy curve onto Interstate 26 in Spartanburg County. Slick curves and iced bridges are what workers with the South Carolina Department of Transportation look for. Tony Dill, a SCDOT



Maintenance Foreman, says they are using tons of salt and sand to melt the ice. "It's a salt water mixture that we mix and do a pre-treatment before any bad weather hits for what moisture hits the road make it moveable," said Dill. Trucks sanded interstates and roads in the Boiling Springs community. Terry Brannon has lived on Old Furnace Road all his life and witnessed several wrecks during the ice storm. "This is a bad road for wrecks anyway they are supposed to four lane this road, but they haven't done it yet," commented Brannon. He calls this road a death trap and often uses his ATV to help stranded drivers. "I've pulled them up the hill and stuff when they're stuck," said Brannon. However, Ricky Goings says even on a clear day, the tricky curves cause dozens of wrecks. He wants the county to put up guard rails and change the speed limit. "It's 35 mph then there's a sign that says 45 mph; you go around a blind curve and then it drops back to 35. That does not make any sense," said Goings.

January 29, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Now sounds like a good time to get out of town but that's not really recommended. The roads are dangerous. The Highway Patrol Reports more than 280-accidents in the upstate alone. And flights have been delayed or cancelled all day long at G.S.P. Out of the 136 flights to and from G.S.P., 84 flights were cancelled. That's more than half, and for good reason. In some areas layers of ice sit around 2 inches thick. Its the same ice that attaches itself on to cars and airplanes. On the runway, empty planes sit idle with layers of ice while snow plows rush to clear the runway for the few flights unaffected by Saturday's winter mess. Inside the airport, weary passengers are dreaming about where they could be. Others can only read about it. Some are trying desperately to make sure they get there and don't get stuck here. Marsha Shamalo was rushing to catch her flight and says, "well were going to get delayed I'm sure. We have dinner reservations tonight in New York so wed like to get there for dinner." Up and down the east coast, the southern storm is putting a deep freeze on hundreds of trips, including flights to and from Dallas, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington D.C. and New York City. "Inconvenient that we might end up having to spend the night here and then fly out tomorrow hopefully," says Shamalo. On the road, the commute is just as inconvenient. Highways were either frozen or slushy. Some drivers had enough problems even getting on the road. Ready to go home after a long day at work, Darlene Gregory didn't have an ice scraper to get the ice off her car. At least she' wasn't driving the truck in the same parking lot. Its driver is chipping away thick icicles, blocking the windshield. He's headed to New York, dodged the blizzard there last week, only to get caught in the storm here. Marvin Wood, says "Out of Atlanta terrible. By the time we go to North Carolina. They at least sanded a little bit of them but it Atlanta the ice was an inch thick on the road and they weren't doing anything."

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The groundhog known as Gen. Beauregard Lee rolled out of his bed Wednesday morning, emerged before a crowd of about 100 people waiting in the rain and predicted an early spring. Beau's take on winter differed from that of his northern rival. Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous furry forecaster, saw his shadow on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., suggesting another six weeks of wintry weather. Not only did Beau fail see his shadow, he also brought a surprise: His new girlfriend. The mystery lady, who will remain nameless until a contest bestows her with a moniker, has been dating Beau off and on during the past six weeks Game ranchers hope the couple will produce a successor for Lee, who may soon be hanging up his weather vane. Old age could force the critter into retirement before the next Groundhog Day rolls around, said Art Rilling, founder of Yellow River Game Ranch where Beau lives. "He's getting a little slower, sleeping in a little later, getting a little fatter," Rilling said. "This could be his last Groundhog Day." At 15, Beau has already lived the life of at least five groundhogs, which only have a life expectancy of two to three years. His predecessor and uncle, Gen. Robert E. Lee, gave the Groundhog Day predictions for 10 years before he retired. "When you get fed every day and have shelter, you can last a long time," Rilling said. "He's got an easy life. He's only expected to do something once a year." No official records of Beau's forecasts have been kept, but his owner says he's only missed once in his 15-year career - a 93 percent accuracy

rate. The groundhog's prognosticating prowess has earned him honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. He was wrong in 1993, when Beau called for an early spring and the worst blizzard in decades blasted the South. Handlers at the ranch decided this year to give Beau a home worthy of his stature. On Tuesday, he was moved into a three-story mansion built on his property, appropriately called Weathering Heights. To lure him out of his new palace Wednesday, ranch handlers plied Beau with hash browns and fresh fruit as onlookers cheer, "Go, Beau!" In 2004, Beau was introduced to the low-carb diet when handlers laid out Atkins-approved chicken and cheesy eggs at sunrise to draw the groundhog from his home. He had grown so pudgy the door to his shed had been widened. But Beau ignored that breakfast, choosing instead to chew on the door of his house. Meanwhile, in Lexington, N.C., a town of 17,000 known for its barbecue restaurants, about 500 people turned out to see the weather forecasting debut of the town's "groundhawg" - a 65-pound miniature potbellied pig named Lil' Bit. The porcine prognosticator agreed with Gen. Beauregard Lee, forecasting an early spring. Dressed in a pink, frilly collar and led on handlers by a pink leash, the black-and-white pig emerged from a vacant building that used to house what is thought to have been the city's second barbecue restaurant. Squealing and grunting, she appeared shy in front of the crowd of onlookers - or maybe just nervous about the fact that most were munching on free sausage and ham biscuits. But Mayor Pro Tem Larry Beck declared that she did not see her shadow, meaning spring is on the way.

March 8, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Greenville and Anderson counties have asked a federal appeals court to force the Environmental Protection Agency to move an air pollution monitor they say isn't giving a fair representation of the region's air quality. The petition, filed Monday, asks the court to require the EPA to label Greenville, Anderson and Spartanburg counties as being in "attainment" rather than their current "unclassifiable" designation. If one of four Upstate monitors fails to meet air quality standards, all three counties could lose federal money for highways and new companies could be forced to install expensive pollution-control equipment. Three of the monitors show the air to be fine, but one, in downtown Greenville behind the County Health building has occasionally exceeded standards in cold weather, according to the petition filed by the counties. The counties blame those results on an oil heater in the health building, cars in the parking lot and a nearby wood-burning furnace.

March 8, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Spring is just around the corner but some hope old man winter hangs out a little longer. Business owners in Wolf Laurel say they hope today's snow will bring skiers back to the slopes. Warm weather put a damper on business brought in by the snow; but owners hope this weekend will be profitable. If you're interested in enjoying the snow, check out the following link for ski times and resort openings. Spring is just around the corner but some people are banking on the winter to stick around a little longer. The owner of Wolf's Den Ski Shop said ordinarily we wouldn't have many very people but with snow falling we'll look for a fairly good weekend" business owners in the Wolfe Laurel area hope the weather this weekend will be profitable. Since snow has been pretty sparse this winter. "Well the things happened it's been so mild this winter at people just didn't come due to it's so warm." Warm weather put a damper on this ski season, so business owners welcome fresh snow anytime. "Outside of our business it helps local gas stations, motels and everything else involved with us"

March 16, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Amid the backdrop of soaring oil and gasoline prices, a sharply divided Senate on Wednesday voted to open the ecologically rich Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, delivering a major energy policy win for President Bush. The Senate, by a 51-49 vote, rejected an attempt by Democrats and GOP moderates to remove a refuge drilling provision from next year's budget, preventing opponents from using a filibuster - a tactic that has blocked repeated

past attempts to open the Alaska refuge to oil companies. The action, assuming Congress agrees on a budget, clears the way for approving drilling in the refuge later this year, drilling supporters said. The House has not included a similar provision in its budget, so the issue is still subject to negotiations later this year to resolve the difference. The oil industry has sought for more than two decades to get access to what is believed to be billions of barrels of oil beneath the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the northern eastern corner of Alaska. Drilling supporters acknowledged after the vote that for refuge development to get final approval Congress must still pass a final budget with the Senate provision included, something Congress was unable to do last year. Still, "this is a big step," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who said he had tried for 24 years to open the refuge, but failed because Democrats blocked the effort through filibusters. The budget is immune from a filibuster, meaning drilling supporters will need only a majority - not the 60 votes required to break a filibuster - to succeed when the issue comes up for final action later this year. Environmentalists have fought such development and argued that despite improved environmental controls a web of pipelines and drilling platforms would harm calving caribou, polar bears and millions of migratory birds that use the coastal plain. Bush has called tapping the reserve's oil a critical part of the nation's energy security and a way to reduce America's reliance on imported oil, which account for more than half of the 20 million barrels of crude use daily. It's "a way to get some additional reserves here at home on the books," Bush said Wednesday. The Alaska refuge could supply as much as 1 million barrels day at peak production, drilling supporters said. But they acknowledge that even if ANWR's oil is tapped, it would have no impact on soaring oil prices and tight supplies. The first lease sales would not be issued until 2007, followed by development seven to 10 years later, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said. "We won't see this oil for 10 years. It will have minimal impact," argued Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., a co-sponsor of the amendment that would have stripped the arctic refuge provision from the budget document. It is "foolish to say oil development and a wildlife refuge can coexist," she said. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., argued that more oil would be saved if Congress enacted an energy policy focusing on conservation, more efficient cars and trucks and increased reliance on renewable fuels and expanded oil development in the deep-water Gulf where there are significant reserves. "The fact is (drilling in ANWR) is going to be destructive," said Kerry. But drilling proponents argued that modern drilling technology can safeguard the refuge and still tap the likely - though not yet certain - 10.4 billion barrels of crude in the refuge. The vote Wednesday contrasted with the last time the Senate took up the ANWR drilling issue two years ago. Then, an attempt to include it in the budget was defeated. But drilling supporters gained strength last November when Republicans picked up three additional seats, all senators who favored drilling in the refuge. Opponents of drilling complained that Republicans this time were trying "an end run" by attaching the refuge provisions to the budget, a tactic that would allow the measure to pass with a majority vote. The 19-million-acre refuge was set aside for protection by President Eisenhower in 1960, but Congress in 1980 said its 1.5 million acre coastal plain could be opened to oil development if Congress specifically authorizes it. The House has repeatedly passed measures over the years to allow drilling in ANWR only to see the legislation stalled in the Senate. But last week, the House refused to include an ANWR provision in its budget document, although any differences between the Senate and House versions would likely be resolved in negotiations. Drilling supporters argued that access to the refuge's oil was a matter of national security and that modern drilling technology would protect the region's wildlife. Environmentalists contended that while new technologies have reduced the drilling footprint, ANWR's coastal plain still would contain a spider web of pipelines that would disrupt calving caribou and disturb polar bears, musk oxen and the annual influx of millions of migratory birds.

November 27, 2006	5a-9:00am	The Morning News
November 27, 2006	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News

#### Description:

Governor Mark Sanford says he wants to add 20 (m) million dollars to the state conservation bank to set aside land for future generations. Sanford told reporters at a boat landing near Ravenel this morning that over the next ten years, the state's population is expected to grow by another one (m) million people. He says the state is developing almost 200 acres of timber and farmland each day. Sanford says the land bank has protected more than 72-thousand acres in South Carolina. Some of the significant tracts include Bonneau (Bon-oh) Ferry, and parts of the Wee Tee Forest in Williamsburg and Georgetown counties.

*Attachments*



*Government*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

DESCRIPTION:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

January 4, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Jim DeMint was sworn in as South Carolina's 55th U.S. Sen. on Tuesday. The Greenville Republican succeeds Democrat Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, who retired after 38 years in Washington. "I'm grateful to the people of South Carolina who have put their faith and trust in me to serve them," said DeMint, who served in the U.S. House for six years. "Sen. Hollings left a strong legacy of fighting for South Carolina that I hope to carry on." U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., followed tradition and escorted DeMint down the center aisle of the Senate chamber to take the oath of office. DeMint was sworn in by Vice President Dick Cheney. "Jim is a great addition to the Senate. I think we'll be good partners working together to move the conservative reform movement forward," said Graham, who took over the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond's seat two years ago. Thurmond was the nation's longest serving senator when he retired at age 100. DeMint will serve on the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Joint Economic Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. He plans to open Senate offices in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville early this year. Republican Bob Inglis also was sworn in Tuesday, taking over DeMint's former 4th District seat in the U.S. House. Inglis held the seat for six years before DeMint but gave up the seat to honor a term-limit pledge.

January 10, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

Seven candidates for chairman of the Democratic National Committee promised Saturday to address the concerns of Southern voters, saying they had learned the lessons of the past two elections. "You want to know my Southern strategy, show up," said Howard Dean, the former Vermont governor who dropped out of the presidential race during last year's Democratic primaries. Dean and the other candidates seeking to replace Terry McAuliffe as the face of the Democratic Party spoke before a Southern audience at the first of several regional caucuses to give Democratic Party officials a chance to hear from them. "You can't compete in just 19 or 20 states," said former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, another candidate for national party chairman. "You get better odds in Las Vegas than with that program." Each of the candidates addressed questions on how the Democratic Party can attract women, black and minority voters. None offered to change the party's positions, but all suggested the party needs to focus the issues more. The chairman's job will be filled in February when the Democratic National Committee holds its winter meetings. Also running for the spot are former Texas Rep. Martin Frost, Democratic strategist Donnie Fowler, former Indiana Rep. Tim Roemer, former Ohio state Democratic Party chair David Leland and Simon Rosenberg, head of the New Democrat Network. "It's not just about spending more money," Rosenberg said in an interview before the forum. "Money also needs to have strategy." Roemer said if elected he would work harder to appeal to rural voters in the South and Midwest, two areas that have gone solidly to Bush in the last two elections. "Some people think we need to steer left. Some people think I would steer the party right. It's not about that. It's about expanding the bus," Roemer said. Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, a fellow Democrat, told the candidates that the party needs to listen more to local officials. He said he is proof that Democrats know how to win

on the statewide level in the South, and that can be translated to the presidential election with a more comprehensive strategy. "The next time around, we want a 50-state platform. We want a 50-state party," Bredesen said to loud applause. "To my party, get out of Washington more."

January 10, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A march in Greenville on Martin Luther King's birthday should highlight the county's need to honor the slain civil rights leader with a paid holiday for workers, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said Sunday. But, he said, the march also will bring attention to parts of King's legacy left undone, including health insurance for the poor and reducing the number of blacks in prisons. Jackson, a native of Greenville and president of the National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, said the march will be held on Jan. 15 - King's actual birthday. The federal holiday honoring King is on the third Monday of January. The holiday is marked by all 50 states. In South Carolina, Greenville is the only county without a King holiday. "So we march on January 15th in Greenville, South Carolina, because it is the one of the few counties in America that will not honor Dr. King's holiday nor honor his legacy," Jackson said Sunday by phone. Three County Council incumbents were ousted in last year's elections - a sign some political observers said means voters want a King holiday. Some business leaders and economic developers have said the fight about the King holiday hurt the area's ability to bring in new jobs. A policy passed by County Council in 2003 gave county employees five fixed holidays and let them choose the other five days they get off work. Workers chose a floating holiday rather than King Day. Jackson's Jan. 15 march comes almost two years after he led more than 8,000 people through Greenville to protest the county's lack of a paid holiday to honor King.

January 10, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Greenville County's Legislative Delegates met with constituents Monday night before heading to Columbia Tuesday. Several groups voiced their comments and concerns on the upcoming Legislative Session. Prevention of teen pregnancy, funds and education for the disabled and taxes were among some of the issues presented. Legislators say tackling the budget will no doubt be a big challenge, as always. Lewis Vaughn @, District 18 House Representative says, "We're looking forward to working on the budget, there are some things we're going to be able to do and some that we're not and it breaks your heart sometimes to tell those agencies no, but you have to do that." Legislators also say they will be working on a Governor's income tax relief plan this upcoming year.

January 16, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sunday night, black leaders in the Greenville community wanted to make sure newly elected lawmakers keep their word and officially recognize the holiday. We all know the debate. We live in the only county in the state that does not recognize Martin Luther King Junior Day. Even with the changing of the guard in the Greenville County Council this area will still go another year without acknowledging the symbolic day. And leaders in the community, both black and white, want to make sure it's the last time it happens. In prayer, the newly elected council members were held to a higher power. "This is the deed, that the new County Council will remember, oh God. They made promises not only to the people, but to you," says one pastor. Some council members, in a fight for their political life, used the Martin Luther King Holiday in their campaign platform during last year's election. A platform a majority of voters approved. Frank Holleman, a supporter of the Martin Luther King Junior Holiday, says, "I think its an embarrassment not to recognize M.L.K. holiday when every other county in state and county do." And newly elected council members hope to erase that embarrassment. Sunday night at an event honoring the slain civil rights

leader they were constantly reminded of their promise to do just that. Dr. John Berry of Baptist Ministers Fellowship, says "And that's our big push. Were going to work with a number of people in the community and persons elected who say they will vote. That they will vote and they will put it in motion." The first County Council meeting with the new council members is on Tuesday. The agenda for that meeting mentions nothing about the holiday.

January 17, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina lawyers could no longer give themselves nicknames like "the heavy hitter" or say they are the best type of attorney in the state under new rules being considered by a law ethics panel. The new rules also would eliminate testimonials made by happy clients showing settlement checks. "These sorts of boasts imply something that isn't true, that 'I am the Hercules of the law profession,' that 'I am Superman,' " said Charleston attorney Tim Bouch, chairman of the state Supreme Court's Rules Commission. "Would you pick a doctor that way?" The commission will hold a public hearing about the proposal Wednesday morning. Advertising rules aren't the only issue the committee has taken up. For the past two years, it has been reforming the state Supreme Court's ethics guidelines governing all 11,500 attorneys licensed to practice law in South Carolina. The group's 227-page document covers just about every facet of the legal profession. But the most visible change would be in advertising. The rules include a clause making attorneys responsible for every part of their advertising. If the ad makes unrealistic claims or promises, sanctions ranging from private or public reprimands to license suspensions could follow. The proposal specifically lists two lawyers who advertise the most in the state. Bill Green's boast as "the heavy hitter" and Akim Anastopoulo nickname as the "strong arm" would both be outlawed under the new rules. Green said he can't do much if the proposal is enacted because the state Supreme Court is the governing body for lawyer conduct in South Carolina. But Green defends his "heavy hitter" nickname and says advertising is important. "It tells them what lawyers are available to represent them in different kinds of legal matters. I'm proud of the ads we've run," Green said. Anastopoulo said he would comply, but he thinks critics are missing the point. "What we're saying is that we will do whatever we can for our client," he said.

January 17, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTON:

Rep. Ronnie Townsend hopes to take another shot at giving property owners tax relief this year with a bill that would allow reassessments only if residential property is sold or transferred. Many residents, especially along the coast, have seen their property values skyrocket and are clamoring for ways to avoid being taxed out of their homes. Lawmakers attempted to limit how much property values could increase during reassessments, but Gov. Mark Sanford said a better plan was needed when he vetoed the legislation last month. Sanford said the bill, which would have imposed a 20 percent cap on increases in property values on homes and businesses for tax purposes, was unconstitutional because it didn't tax property based on fair market value. Townsend said he thinks his bill meets Sanford's request because it would prevent counties from reassessing property until it is sold, putting the burden of higher taxes on the buyer. "They would be the ones committing to the actual value that they're willing to pay for it," said Townsend, R-Anderson. A House subcommittee will take up the bill Tuesday. Critics had argued it takes money to run local governments and a cap on reassessed property values would shift the tax burden to other property owners. The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, which lobbied against the 20 percent cap, wants lawmakers to study the entire tax process. "You can't look at one piece of the tax system," said Julie Horton, a chamber spokeswoman. "When you push down on one part of the tax process, it bulges elsewhere." Townsend said he knows his legislation is not the perfect answer, but it spares property owners from facing two potential tax increases - reassessment and a higher tax rate. Property owners can see their taxes go up if the value of their land increases or if schools and counties raise the tax rate. "We have people losing their homes because property tax is escalating at such a rapid rate," said Rep. Vida Miller, D-Pawleys Island. "I'm just for some kind of property tax relief." Sanford vetoed Miller's bill and now she's curious to see what happens with Townsend's proposal. She said

one problem with Townsend's bill is a cap on reassessment for commercial property at 15 percent every four years. "The constitution requires all property must be treated the same," she said.

January 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The first official meeting of the new Greenville County Council was held Tuesday night, and while many of the new members say an MLK Holiday is a top priority, the issue was nowhere to be found on the agenda, but that doesn't mean it's not on the minds of the community or the council. Rhonda Coles, a Greenville County resident in favor of the MLK Holiday says, "We've got to move forward and honoring Dr. King is a giant step in moving forward and bring Greenville up to par with the rest of the country." It's no secret recognizing Martin Luther King Junior Day as a paid holiday in Greenville County is a hot topic for council members and residents. Clarence Thorton also supports the holiday, he says, "If the world can recognize MLK, South Carolina can recognize MLK." But the issue wasn't commented on by council members. According to Council Chair, Butch Kirven, "There are some legal questions that aren't answered at this point, that we're looking into and when the time is right you'll see them brought up." Council rules say you must wait a year from the last time an issue is presented before bringing it up again. But Kirven is working to bring it to the table much sooner, he says, "We don't want to take a misstep and do something we'll have to backtrack on, we want to do it properly and make it effective and have dignity, the way it should be." Some veteran council members, like Scott Case, say it's not an issue over supporting civil rights or Dr. King's contributions, rather considering their employees' needs. "The county council at that time felt that the county employees, the ones who were affected most by the decision would make the decision on the holidays....I'm still convinced allowing our employees to make that choice is still the right decision," says Case. But Kirven says a new council may come up with a different decision, "I'm optimistic and I don't see any reason not to be." With the old rules in place, MLK Day wouldn't be allowed to be discussed until April. Both Kirven and Case say they expect to see the issue on the agenda much sooner. One other topic discussed, Councilman Tony Trout requested getting rid of the metal detectors and searching people who are attending the council meetings. The Council will be considering that suggestion.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Greenville County Council members say they're likely to pass a resolution this week to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, ending the county's stint as the only one in South Carolina that doesn't observe the federal holiday. The resolution being considered would make MLK Day a fixed holiday that county employees receive with pay. Currently, the third Monday in January is an optional holiday. The council's five-member Public Safety Committee plans to meet Monday to consider a resolution to amend the employee handbook. If the panel approves the resolution, the full council will hear it Tuesday. Seven votes would make the holiday law. "Certainly it's going to pass, and I think it's gonna pass by more than seven votes," said Bob Taylor, a member of the committee who has repeatedly opposed such a holiday. Taylor said he hasn't decided how he will vote. The change would not require three public readings because the change would be passed by resolution, not by ordinance. Supporters of the holiday say there's still entrenched opposition that could surface again next week. "I can't get happy until it happens," Councilwoman Lottie Gibson said. Opponents have argued the holiday is too costly to implement. In the past, the council has allowed county employees to decide whether to make MLK Day a fixed holiday. If approved, the change would come after three new council members were elected in November. Voters replaced three Republicans with others from the party who supported the holiday.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:



State Attorney General Henry McMaster is reviewing the tax activity of two businesses: MCI and the international accounting and consulting firm KPMG. "The Department of Revenue has provided this office with information concerning MCI, its subsidiaries ... and KPMG relating to tax issues," McMaster told the paper. "We're in the process of reviewing that information to determine what action, if any, is warranted." Revenue director Burnie Maybank refused to comment. MCI was formerly known as WorldCom and KPMG advised the company. A spokesman said McMaster is reviewing issues related to a report last year by former U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, who said WorldCom avoided paying state taxes from 1998 to 2001 by charging subsidiaries in various states more than \$20 billion in royalties for services such as "the foresight of top management." McMaster said his review is independent of any other examination. His office has sent letters to the companies requesting more information about the undisclosed tax issues. "We have had very productive settlement discussions with the states to include South Carolina, and we're hopeful that we will be able to resolve this matter," said MCI spokeswoman Stephanie Scott.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The state Department of Social Services wants to lower the number of children day-care employees can supervise. The agency's plan would be phased in over four years so day-care owners would have time to prepare. The new rules must be approved by the General Assembly. Currently, a House committee is reviewing the rules. The regulations would reduce the number of children each day-care employee can watch. For example, one adult now can look after up to 10 2-year-olds. After the phase-in period, one adult could supervise only seven children, said Leigh Bolick, director of child care services for DSS. For the first time, the state also would have maximum group sizes, which refers to the number of children in separate rooms or in a single room but split into separate groups. The regulations would be for facilities with more than 13 children ranging in age up to 4 years old, Bolick said. There are 1,268 licensed day-care centers in South Carolina. Rose's Day Care owner Rose Kitty said the new rules will force her to hire more employees, and she'll have to pass that cost on to parents. She worried some parents will then turn to unlicensed day-care centers. But Jackie VanBalricum, owner of Lucky Duck Preschool, said the changes are good for children and wouldn't affect her center because she already meets the proposed requirements. "It's really about the safety and welfare of the children," VanBalricum said. "I'm very happy that they're lowering it. I'm 100 percent behind the lowering." Rep. Richard Chalk, R-Hilton Head, said it is important to balance the cost of the new rules with what is best for children. He also wants to see a voluntary rating system of day-care facilities. DSS has been considering a rating plan, called Palmetto STARS, but Bolick said the measure has been put on hold so the agency could concentrate on the proposed regulation changes.

February 1, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The government is using the Internet to fight diploma mills. To help employers learn if potential employees have fake degrees, the Department of Education has set up a Web site with a master list of all the academic institutions with proper accreditation. According to congressional testimony, more than 200 diploma mills rake in at least 200 million dollars a year from selling bogus degrees. The Web site is part of a new campaign to educate the public about the problem of fake degrees. An investigation last year that found at least 28 senior-level federal employees in eight agencies had bogus college degrees. Bogus universities have become increasingly savvy at posing as legitimate schools. Some provide fake transcripts for their "alumni."

February 1, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Greenville County barely makes history a very tight vote Tuesday night squeezes in a holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. It was a very long battle. 19 years long, and Tuesday marked the first day of Black History Month only makes it even more appropriate for those in favor of the holiday. There was a sudden outburst as Martin Luther King Day was adopted. Just one vote less and the issue would be debated all over again next year. Sandy Seyfarth-Lechner, a supporter of M.L.K. Holiday says, "This is just a tremendous day for Greenville County and all of Greenville and I'm hoping this is the beginning of a lot of healing in our community." For nearly two decades thousands marched the streets in Greenville and the State's capitol to make this day a reality. The victory is both professional and personal for the president of Greenville County's N.A.A.C.P. he brought his daughter to witness the vote. Amber Guy, the President's daughter, says, "Some people thought he didn't really make a difference, but for black people he really did make a difference." For years, opposing Council members argued the new holiday would be an unwanted burden on taxpayers. The cost, according to the County Administration, roughly \$138,000 a year that's more than Anderson County, but still less than Spartanburg County; which has a smaller operating yearly budget. District 20 Councilman Scott Case, says, "There's a big difference between Spartanburg and Greenville. Greenville hasn't raised taxes in 14 years." But most supporters say it's not about paying money, it's about paying tribute to a man who defending civil rights died. Rhonda Coles, a supporter of M.L.K. Day, says, "It isn't about a paid holiday, it's about honoring a man who fought for all of us." Now every county in South Carolina recognizes Martin Luther King Day. The change goes into effect immediately.

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Black legislators walked out on judicial elections Wednesday, protesting years of little progress in getting black judges elected. Twenty-nine Legislative Black Caucus members walked out as the last votes were cast in two elections that had black candidates. Both lost by wide margins. "We're very tired of being left out in terms of diversity," said Rep. David Mack, D-Charleston and the caucus chairman. "Today we got whitewashed." Blacks hold just six of the state's 141 judicial seats. In electing judges, the Legislature "looks at race first and that's a problem," Mack said. It happens during every judicial election, he said, "and we're sick of that." "A lot of this is about judicial philosophy, not race or gender," House Speaker David Wilkins, R-Greenville, said. Race isn't the issue, he said. "It never has been with me and I don't believe it is." The walkout - the first for the Black Caucus - "might keep the public spotlight on the issue, but it doesn't do anything to solve the problem that they perceive," Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, said. Gov. Mark Sanford wouldn't comment on the walkout. "It's a legislative issue," Sanford spokesman Will Folks said. But black legislators want action, not more waiting. Republican leadership in the Legislature, "keeps promising that things are going to get better," Sen. Kay Patterson, D-Columbia, said. Instead, he said, things are getting worse, "they're not better." The Legislative Black Caucus has 32 members. Two were out sick and one, Sen. Kent Williams, D-Marion, didn't leave with the other members, said Rep. Leon Howard, D-Columbia and chairman-elect of the caucus. As black legislators walked out, they were greeted by more than a dozen members of the South Carolina conference of NAACP branches. They held signs saying "More diversity in the courts. We care, we want you to be fair." Lonnie Randolph, the state group's president, said the NAACP will stand beside legislators as "they continue to overcome oppression and bigotry." Mack said difficulty in electing black judicial candidates appears to be because of flaws in the way judges are chosen. If that is the case, it's a point that could show up in a court challenge to the way the state elects judges. Last year, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Greenville native and head of a national civil rights organization, threatened to sue the state over its system of electing judges, saying a popular election would result in more diversity. "That system of selecting judges violates the intent of the Voting Rights Act of 1965," Jackson said Tuesday. He said his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition is still reviewing a possible legal challenge as well as a "street challenge." Black caucus members stayed to vote as they continued to build a record that could be used in a court fight, said Jim Felder, director of the South Carolina Voter Education Project. Howard hopes a bill he has sponsored will put more black judges on the bench. It says the Judicial Merit Selection Commission can send the names of all qualified candidates to the Legislature for consideration. That screening committee now is allowed only to send three candidates forward as nominees. That's a good idea, said Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester and a screening panel

member for 10 years. "The screening committee still has the power to be the gatekeeper," Delleney said. It "allows more candidates ... to be considered by the General Assembly." But Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman, said that may go awry because it would "only add more names for them not to elect." McConnell said part of the solution is encouraging more black candidates to run. In the past, "black candidates have been chilled out of running on the theory that only one black candidate should be running at one time" for an open seat, McConnell said. "If more offer in future races, they're going to win more judgeships," McConnell said. Just as more women have become lawyers and ultimately judges, more black lawyers will rise to the bench, Wilkins said. "It's a natural progression," he said.

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Gov. Mike Easley asked state lawmakers Wednesday to approve spending \$61 million from the state's rainy day fund to help western North Carolina counties recover from last fall's devastating tropical storms. With the state and federal money Easley's office said already has been allocated or spent, the total amount for the recovery would inch closer to the estimated damage amount of well over \$300 million. The announcement came hours after officials and residents of made an emotional plea for help to the Joint Legislative Committee for Hurricane Relief. The Haywood County town of Canton sustained \$9 million in damage from two rounds of flooding in September, when remnants of two hurricanes passed through. Though agents of the Federal Emergency Management Agency initially promised full funding of repairs, the bureau has provided only \$143,000 to date, Canton Mayor Pat Smathers said. "I am convinced that if the help doesn't come from here, it's not going to come," Smathers said. In December, Easley diverted about \$90 million from state agencies to the relief effort, helping secure more than \$100 million in federal aid. Additionally, the state Department of Transportation has spent \$35 million so far on road and bridge repair in the region. If the new request is approved, that would amount to at least \$286 million in state and federal aid to the beleaguered counties. Bryan Beatty, secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, told the committee that the money Easley requested would be used for infrastructure repair, relocating families who lived in the floodplain, home repairs not covered by federal aid, reimbursing losses to farms and commercial fisheries, and aid to other businesses. Senate Democrats already have introduced a bill that would tap the state's reserve fund and the money already collected by the Easley administration from state agencies for \$316 million in hurricane relief. Democrats last week floated a proposal for a temporary half-cent sales tax increase to pay for hurricane relief, but backed off the idea this week when Republican House members protested that the state should raise the money without increasing taxes. The idea was that a temporary sales tax increase would raise money without increasing the looming funding gap in next year's budget. The remnants of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan were blamed for killing 11 people in the mountains. Statewide, 46 counties were declared federal disaster areas. As of late January, the federal government had distributed \$20 million to North Carolinians who suffered damage when Tropical Storm Frances passed through in early September. But more than half the money went to people in six eastern counties, where the storm did relatively little damage. Smathers said he does not know why it's been difficult for his region to get significant federal aid. He speculated that it might be because people in the mountains haven't had as much experience as those in the east when it comes to seeking aid for tropical storm damage. "We're not used to this sort of thing," he said. "We don't have these kind of disasters up here." The committee watched a slide show of photographs of the damage across the region. But the most compelling testimony came from Marilyn Jones of the Macon County community of Peaks Creek, which was demolished by a landslide that killed four people. Jones tearfully described how her home of 30 years was swept away and her land stripped down to bedrock, meaning she cannot rebuild there. She said her insurance company has ruled the damage flood-related and refuses to cover it, and the federal government will give only about \$11,000 for repairs and temporary housing. "We're very grateful for that help but, as all of you know, there's no way you can rebuild a home for \$10,000," she said. "Other than the deaths of my parents, this is the hardest thing I've ever gone through."

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina lawmakers - black and white, Republican and Democrat - agree the state has too few black judges. But where they differ is how to fix the problem. Some black lawmakers and civil rights leaders have suggested a lawsuit that would force the Legislature to change the way judges are elected. Others have sponsored bills to change the selection process. Some white lawmakers say it's just a matter of time: As more blacks become lawyers, more will be elected to the bench as was the case with women. Of the 112 judges elected by the Legislature to serve on the state's Supreme, Appeals, Circuit and Family Courts, seven are black, according to figures from Rosalyn Frierson, director of the state's court administration office. On Wednesday, two black candidates lost their bids to become judges as lawmakers elected an all-white slate of candidates. The results prompted black lawmakers to walk out of the joint legislative session. "We're very tired of being left out in terms of diversity," said Rep. David Mack, D-Charleston and chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. "Today we got whitewashed." One black lawmaker, Rep. Leon Howard, D-Columbia, said his bill that would allow the Legislature to consider more than the current limit of three candidates for each judgeship has passed a House subcommittee. The full Judiciary Committee has not taken it up, he said. Howard said lifting the three-judge limit would let all qualified judicial candidates be considered by lawmakers and could lead to more black judges. But others have suggested a more confrontational route - taking the issue to court. What kind of lawsuit would be filed or who would be sued hasn't been discussed. But some legal experts say such a case would be hard to make. Three constitutional law professors said a likely approach would be to sue under the equal protection provisions of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But, law professors from the University of South Carolina, Hofstra University and UCLA said that approach would work only if it could be proved that legislators intentionally vote for judicial candidates based on race. South Carolina is one of just two states in which the legislature elects judges. "It would be a very courageous action," said USC professor Eldon Wedlock. "But it would be very tough (to win) under the current state of the law." Leon Friedman of Hofstra said similar cases have won. "It's hard," Friedman said. "It's not impossible. "When you're dealing with a legislature it is more difficult," he said, "... because you have to start questioning the motives of each individual." Eugene Volokh of UCLA said judicial selections, whether in states or at the national level, usually favor the party in power. "That's the way the appointment process works," Volokh said. "That's part of the political process, and it's a legitimate one. But they are not constitutional questions." Wedlock said that though the shortage of black judges is dramatic in South Carolina, the numbers don't prove anything. "It's nothing more than a whiff or a scent there's something wrong, but you don't know what it is," Wedlock said. One way to strengthen the case, Friedman said, would be to have a black lawyer rejected for judgeship become the plaintiff in the case. House Speaker David Wilkins, R-Greenville, said it doesn't matter who controls the Legislature. "I reject the notion that fewer black judges are getting elected today because Republicans are in control," he said. For years, the goal of the Legislative Black Caucus has been to get more blacks elected to judgeships. The effort has fallen short. "I understand their frustration. I know it's there," said Wilkins, who has offered to sit down with black lawmakers to discuss the situation and try to find some common ground.

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

When legislators returned to their desks this year, they found new laptops on their desks that cost \$322,700. The 175 new \$1,844 Dell computers replaced more expensive laptops the state bought in 1998, Senate Clerk Jeffrey Gossett said. "I'm totally shocked," House Minority Leader Harry Ott, D-St. Matthews, said. "I have no guess on why we would have chosen to spend \$322,000 on new laptops when we absolutely, in my opinion, did not need to and without having some type of input from the General Assembly." "I would like to know why we replaced them with the other ones. I don't know," Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell said. He could not recall any discussion about the new notebooks. The old laptops' operating system, Windows 95, was dated; they were slowing down the Legislature's computer network and were becoming more difficult to maintain, Gossett said. The Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems office, overseen by Gossett and House Clerk Charles Reid, made the purchase. Half the cost was paid last summer and the rest will be paid this year. Gossett said the state already has a contract with Dell and no bid was required. As with the old laptops, legislators use the computers to check e-mail, look at bills and amendments and research history on laws. They also can surf the Legislature's internal intranet, but aren't allowed unlimited access to the Internet. The computers stay in the legislative chambers. They help lawmakers cut the paper blizzard that once was a part of their routine. Legislators said didn't know where they came from. Some legislators joked that they may have come from businesses or lobbyists. "Mine says sponsored by 'Piggly Wiggly,'" Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said. "Mine says sponsored

by the Chamber" of Commerce, Senate Rules Committee Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, joked. Whatever the source, they are "a big improvement over what we had," Martin said. "The ones we had were probably junk," he said. "What we had was very, very, very not up to speed." The technology upgrade did not reach the governor's office, however. "We're used to folks at other state agencies laughing at us because of our cheap cell phones and the fact that we don't have BlackBerries or laptops for everybody," said Will Folks, Gov. Mark Sanford's spokesman.

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A pair of Upstate House members have asked that their names be removed from a bill that would implement Gov. Mark Sanford's plan to give parents tax credits if they teach their children at home or send them to a private school. Sanford sees the measure as enhancing school choice and creating competition that will make public schools better. Reps. Garry Smith, R-Simpsonville, and Gene Pinson, R-Greenwood say too many questions are unanswered about the "Put Parents in Charge" legislation. Smith says he is not sure how his name got on the bill. He questions "how we measure success and set up true market forces so parents can see apples to apples and make a comparison" of school options. "I can't support it until we address these fundamentals," Smith said, adding that even with the answers "it's going to be a hard decision for me." "You can't argue with the point of putting parents in charge," Pinson said. He wants to know how parents would select schools or whether those with learning disabilities will have sufficient choices. The bill doesn't deal with transportation issues for pupils with special needs. Pinson, a former school board trustee, said Sanford doesn't have the answers to his questions. "I've tried to get them from him." Sanford set the legislation as one of his top priorities. In his State of the State address last week, Sanford said it was "gut check" time and "for the state, and for the sake of these kids' lives, I ask for this bill's passage." The House's two most powerful Republicans - Speaker David Wilkins of Greenville and budget committee chairman Bobby Harrell of Charleston - haven't signed onto the legislation. "It's early in the process and there are a lot of questions being raised," Sanford spokesman Will Folks said. He expects that to change as a final version emerges. The defections of Smith and Pinson won't hurt the bill, he said. "We're confident that when folks look at how successful school choice has been in other parts of the country, folks will come around," Folks said. "Agents of the status quo" from within the education establishment, Folks said, are attempting to plant seeds of doubt among lawmakers to delay, water down or kill the plan.

February 7, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Opening day of the 2005 General Assembly seemed full of promise. Nearly two-thirds of the House Republicans voted for a power-sharing arrangement that signaled a second session of bipartisan cooperation. And Senate leader Marc Basnight said he wanted to get a \$316 million hurricane relief bill passed within a week. That week passed, then another. By Friday, more than two weeks into the session, legislators had yet to get a flood package to either chamber's floor, let alone Gov. Mike Easley's desk. Not to mention the fact that House Democrats and Republicans were already at odds. "I think we're in a hold," said House Republican Leader Joe Kiser, R-Lincoln. "People don't want to get on the bus until we know where we're going." It usually takes several weeks of any session for legislators to get down to real business. That's because leaders are busy electing caucus leaders, assigning committee chairmanships, parceling out the best office space to their allies and getting acquainted again with lobbyists. Even in the Senate, where President Pro Tem Marc Basnight's staff runs a well-oiled machine, it was a surprise to hear the Dare County Democrat suggest on opening day that a relief bill could pass so quickly. Then House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg, and allies suggested a temporary half-cent sales tax increase might be the way to pay for moving displaced homeowners to safer ground, repairing water and sewer lines and reimbursing people for crop and business losses from last September's tropical storms. The state already faces a \$1.2 billion budget gap going into negotiations for a fiscal 2006 budget, and Black argued that a tax - expected to last nine months - would keep the state from even bigger problems. A day later, members of the Democratic caucus - particularly western House members who desperately want flood relief money for their constituents - expressed confidence that a sales tax increase could win enough Republican votes for passage. That was before legislators spent a weekend at home - and inter-party cooperation went out the window. House Republicans from the west

came back to Raleigh last week and lined up against a tax increase. House Minority Whip Mitch Gillespie, R-McDowell, said Republicans would not support any increase and that the state's \$267 million reserve fund was more than enough to pay for any relief. Irritated, Black criticized Republicans, accusing them of trying to make Democrats appear pro-tax. As the week went on, he remained unhappy with his GOP colleagues. "There's not a quick solution," Black said. Without creating new revenue, "I guess we're going to have take (flood relief) out of our current revenues and find cuts in education." House Republicans said they never promised Black support for a tax increase. Some have charged that the sales tax proposal was actually aimed at boosting revenue by enough that Black and other leaders won't have to make spending cuts in next year's budget. Over in the Senate, lawmakers are unhappy with Easley's proposal that only another \$61 million in relief money is needed to deal with the storms. That's barely one-fifth of the total recommended by a panel of western North Carolina legislators. "No one, not even the governor, can tell you what it's going to cost," said Sen. Martin Nesbitt, D-Buncombe, a chief Senate booster of a relief package. "The \$61 million they intend to give us is flawed." Legislators who served on the flooding relief panel have acknowledged their recommendations may be high. In addition to relying on loss estimates provided by western counties, their proposal would also send assistance to Piedmont and eastern counties that say they did not get federal aid, even though those parts of the state were relatively unscathed. Legislators could end up passing a relief bill that spends more than Easley thinks is necessary. That would set up a tough decision for the governor, who is just starting his second term. He can either push hard for a smaller aid package, risking complaints that he is not doing enough for storm victims, or allow legislators to take the full amount out of the reserve fund, which could come back to haunt the state during budget negotiations. Western lawmakers are frustrated by the delay, but also recognize the need to come out with a bill everyone can agree on. At this point, that looks like one that does not include a tax increase and one that includes less than \$300 million. "The (slow) speed is somewhat disturbing," said Sen. Tom Apodaca, R-Henderson. But "it would be an act of futility to pass a bill that the governor didn't like." One factor in the stalemate may be the absence from Raleigh last week of House Speaker Pro Tem Richard Morgan, R-Moore, who was tending to a family matter. Morgan and Black were co-speakers during the last session, but have yet to finalize the extent of their powersharing during this session. With that up in the air, Kiser said, many lawmakers are still waiting for a clear signal from the leadership on where to go with hurricane relief. "This is a little early," he said. "We've got to know whether they're going to govern from the middle again."

February 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The South Carolina Senate takes up two bills aimed at limiting lawsuits and jury awards this week. Medical malpractice What the bill does: \_ Limits pain and suffering and other non-economic damages to \$250,000 unless the person suing can show a doctor or hospital was grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or reckless. The cap has an exception for people who are paralyzed. Payouts for economic damages, such as future medical bills or lost wages, do not change. \_ If a pretrial settlement offer is turned down, whoever rejected the offer picks up court costs and pays interest if the court gives the same or less than the offer. \_ Expert witnesses would have to be experts in the areas in which they will testify. \_ The Medical Disciplinary Commission would expand to include six people with no ties to health care. \_ The state would review medical malpractice insurance savings. Non-medical malpractice What the bill does: \_ Lawsuits stemming from shoddy construction would have to be filed within nine years, instead of the current 13 years. \_ People and businesses would have to bring lawsuits in the county where the issue arose, such as a car accident, or where the defendant does business or lives. \_ Lawyers and their clients filing frivolous lawsuits or motions could be forced to pay lawyers' fees and other expenses. \_ Companies or individuals that share less than 20 percent of the blame in a lawsuit would not be made to pay more than their share of an award. \_ Interest on lawsuit awards would be set at the prime interest rate plus four percentage points. The state now uses a fixed rate of 12 percent. \_ Lawyers would not be able to use misleading or deceptive practices in advertising. That is an effort to stop lawyers who use nicknames such as "strong arm" and "heavy hitter" in ads.

February 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Defense lawyer Claire Rauscher has been selected to head a federal defender's office that will represent criminal suspects in Charlotte and the Western District of North Carolina who can't afford a lawyer. The 49-year-old defense

attorney, whose license plate reads "NTGUILTY", the job is a dream assignment. "It's certainly my biggest professional accomplishment," Rauscher said. "My heart has always been in indigent defense. My family always emphasized that we need to take care of those less fortunate than us. Rauscher has worked with a federal defender's office in Philadelphia for about eight years before coming to Charlotte in 1994. Federal defender's offices now operate in more than 45 states. In the Carolinas, such they already have been set up in Raleigh, Greensboro and Columbia. Rauscher has handled high-profile cases both in state and federal courts in Charlotte. She helped defend Van Brett Watkins, who shot and killed the pregnant girlfriend of former Carolina Panthers player Rae Carruth. Watkins was sentenced in 2001 to at least 40 years in prison. Rauscher will begin work April 1.

February 22, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina Democrats finished January with less than \$3,000 in their federal campaign accounts, a fraction of the more than \$190,000 state Republicans had for future Washington races. With no federal elections this year, it's not much of a surprise that donations slow to a trickle. Republicans raised \$20,749, the party's filing with the Federal Election Commission shows. The drought was worse for Democrats, who raised \$10,275 in January, thanks to a \$10,000 contribution from state Democratic Party Chairman Joe Erwin, the FEC filing shows. Luke Byars, the state GOP's executive director, seized on that. "They only had one check - from their chairman," he said. Erwin did not immediately respond to a call. "Joe is one of our annual contributors," said Michelle Macrina, the state Democratic Party's acting executive director. That contribution regularly comes in at the beginning of the year. Macrina said the party is on firm financial footing. "We are not borrowing money. We have no loans out," she said. The numbers don't suggest vigor, Byars said. "The Democratic Party is starting to resemble Lazarus: They may need a little help to get back into the game. ... He's dead," Byars said. The federal filings don't reflect state money the parties have raised. In a December filing, Democrats reported they had \$27,415 on hand and Republicans had \$128,061. The next report won't be released until April. Changes in the state Democratic party's day-to-day leadership are coming. Nu Wexler ran the party for about a year before leaving the executive director's job last year to run the Democrats' election efforts. Wexler returned to the job after the election, but said two weeks ago that he's leaving. Macrina says the party's now advertising for a new full-time director. Last week, Erwin announced he will seek another term - dousing hopes from some quarters that he would take on Republican Gov. Mark Sanford in 2006.

February 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The state House on Tuesday unanimously approved a \$247.5 million package to aid victims of last year's storms that killed 11 people in western North Carolina. The bill now returns to the Senate, which will decide whether to accept the similar House version or reject it and set up a panel to negotiate differences. Gov. Mike Easley appeared to be running out of time to try to lower the overall dollar amount on the package. The governor has said he only needed about \$151 million to draw down federal matching funds, provide repair money to homeowners, move residents out of flood plains and reimburse farmers. That was far less than \$316 million initially sought by western lawmakers. Lawmakers instead decided to write legislation providing more than twice what Easley requested. The complete package includes \$90 million Easley collected from state agencies last fall to help finance the recovery. With Tuesday's vote, Easley's focus appeared to shift to seeking more accountability on how the money would be allocated. "There's still some time here," Franklin Freeman, the governor's chief lobbyist, said earlier Tuesday. "We'll have to see what happens." Easley's signature is needed for any bill to become law, and he could veto the legislation. Rep. Ray Rapp, D-Madison, said the final package is the "rock-bottom figure" needed to assist displaced families and businesses. Before Tuesday's vote, House members shared stories of suffering North Carolinians and noted often that they've been waiting five months for the state to act. "We need the help up there," said Rep. Bruce Goforth, D-Buncombe. "We've had a tsunami in the west, valleys have been crucified with the high waters." Rep. Wilma Sherrill, R-Buncombe, said "it's a shame that it's been almost six months coming." Last year's storms and resulting floods and mudslides destroyed 140 homes and damaged 16,234 more, according to the legislation.

February 23, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's lawyers are lagging in taking a new required civility oath and so the state Supreme Court has extended the deadline for attorneys to make the promise. The original deadline for the state's 11,500 attorneys to take the oath was March 1. Now the deadline has been extended through the end of May. "We are not only disappointed that a significant number of attorneys in this state have failed to comply with an order of this court, but that they have not taken seriously this opportunity to reaffirm their commitment and dedication to upholding the dignity, integrity and honor of their profession," said a message on the Supreme Court Web site. More than a year ago the justices endorsed changing the lawyer's oath. The change reads, in part, that attorneys pledge "fairness, integrity and civility, not only in court but also in all written and oral communications" with opposing parties and their attorneys. Lawyers can lose their licenses if they don't take the oath. Violating the oath can mean sanctions or reprimands from the Supreme Court. Just about every licensed lawyer in the state must take the oath, including judges. It covers attorney dealings with everyone from clients and secretaries to clerks to bailiffs. Frank McCann, the new chairman of the Charleston County Bar, said attorneys who haven't taken the oath are probably just behind in setting up their schedules. "I haven't met a single person who takes offense at it," McCann said. "I don't see it as any disagreement with the oath." A recent online poll by the South Carolina Lawyers Weekly Web site found 34 percent of those who responded said they ran into discourteous lawyers "regularly" or "nearly every day. About 31 percent said they "seldom" or "never" met rude colleagues. The justices can enforce the oath in many ways, including public reprimands, private letters or fines. Mandatory anger management classes are also an option. Some retired lawyers, some associate members of the South Carolina Bar and some out-of-state lawyers who are Bar members are exempt from taking the oath.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A tougher seat belt bill that fines people \$25 for failing to buckle up cleared the House Education and Public Works Committee on Tuesday. The Senate passed the bill earlier this month. The committee's version of the bill uses fines to help pay for the state's Amber Alert system for missing children. The Senate bill set the fine at \$12, plus court costs with a maximum of \$25 for each offense. Gov. Mark Sanford has criticized the legislation because it does not allow insurance companies or juries in accident cases to learn of seat belt offenses. The seat belt bill gives police authority to stop adult drivers who are not buckled up. Presently, adult drivers can only be ticketed for not wearing a seat belt if they are stopped for a separate offense or if children in the car aren't properly restrained. The House could debate the bill as early as next week.

February 24, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Living people won't be honored with highways or bridges being named after them under a bill that won key House approval Wednesday. The bill won second reading with a 76-32 vote and will get routine final approval Thursday. House Speaker David Wilkins, R-Greenville, said the bill was a way of showing "our respect for the taxpayers of our state." The bill shows the House values state residents' sensibilities "more than we do our own public recognition." Earlier this month, the House approved a resolution to rename the Earle Morris Highway after its namesake was convicted of securities fraud. Wilkins said that type of honor should come only after a period of time after someone's death when contributions and a legacy can "be legitimately evaluated." But that should be left to local legislative delegations or councils because they "have a right to name a bridge, a road, in their district after people they want to name them after - regardless of whether they are living or dead," Rep. B.R. Skelton, R-Six Mile, said. The House bill will head to the Senate, where the Transportation Committee is considering a similar bill.

February 25, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News



#### DESCRIPTION:

A driver flicking a cigarette out of a car window has a higher penalty than if lumber falls off your truck and hurts someone. But that could all change if a new bill becomes law. Senator David Thomas says, "You see a problem and you try to address that problem before it gets any worse." The Senator is talking mostly about flat bed trucks loaded up with materials ranging from lumber to mattresses that are not secured. He says, "A solid object that can create a road hazard, that's the issue we're dealing with here." State Highway statistics show that road debris caused more than 700 collisions and 208 injuries over the past three years. Senator David Thomas says more than 190 cases of property damage are also reported each year. But according to the Senator physical property comes secondary. He says, "It pales in comparison to when a human life is lost because the hazardous condition results in the death or serious injury to someone." And yet for the truckers who didn't secure the materials properly there is no fine. But that could change under a proped bill that would raise fines to at least a litter fine. Also if the fallen debris causes "great bodily injury" the offending driver would be charged with a felony carrying a minimum \$5000 fine or ten years in prison. If the debris causes death, the felony would carry a minimum \$10,000 fine or 25 years in prison. The law would also give officers the authority to stop a trucker whose load is shifting. Senator Thomas says there is one bottom line to this law. "We're trying to create as many incentives to make sure the driver, usually trucks, checks his rig."

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Cities with 20,000 or more residents could install cameras at traffic lights to catch those running red lights under a bill approved by the Senate Transportation Committee. The committee voted down a similar bill a week ago because opponents said it might be a tempting revenue source for small towns. Some also said the accused wouldn't have enough protections. The difference with this bill is it applies only to cities with 20,000 or more residents. Greenville Police Chief Willie Johnson said Wednesday the cameras would make South Carolina roads safer. Cameras are currently being used in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Police review the images, and if they see a violation, they write a citation for the vehicle's owner. If someone other than the owner was driving the car, it's up to the owner to make that clear. Fines would be capped at \$100, and couldn't be put on the driver's record or be used to raise insurance rates.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

There's not much evidence to support Gov. Mike Easley's claim that the state's highest income tax rate should be cut to attract businesses, experts said. A company would rarely use a state's personal income tax rate as the main factor in deciding where to locate, several major corporate site consultants said. "That would be very simplistic," said Ed McCallum, a Greenville, S.C., consultant whose company worked with Boeing Co. in its recent search for a plant site. "It becomes just one of many, many factors." Michael Cutri, a Los Angeles consultant who helped select Durham for a new Merck Co. pharmaceutical plant, also said income tax is just one aspect of those decisions. "Is it important? Yes," Cutri said. "But the income tax is only one of many and certainly not a stand-alone driver." Easley, in presenting his budget proposal for 2005-07 last week, said businesses were shunning North Carolina because of the top income tax rate of 8.25 percent. That rate applies to taxable income of more than \$200,000 for couples or \$120,000 for individuals. It generates about \$90 million a year. The governor would drop the rate to 8 percent as of January 2006, and to 7.75 percent the year after. The administration has refused to cite examples of North Carolina losing a business deal because of the tax rate other than that of Louisiana Pacific. The building supply company in 2003 considered moving its Portland, Ore., headquarters to Charlotte but chose Nashville, Tenn. Senior budget adviser Dan Gerlach said the income tax was a big factor in losing that company and its 150 headquarters jobs. Mary Cohn, a spokeswoman for Louisiana Pacific, said she wouldn't describe it "quite that way." "There are many factors," she said. "Tax structure is one thing, but there are the schools, the quality of life, the location with our operations, the available business space." The cut would provide an average of about \$1,900 a year for the state's top 1 percent of earners, whose average income was \$692,000 in 2004, said Elaine Mejia, director of the N.C.

Budget and Tax Center, a nonprofit group that advocates for the poor on tax matters. The reduction would return the tax rate to the level it was before 2001, when Easley took office facing huge budget gaps. Easley and lawmakers increased the tax rate in the highest tax bracket and added a half-cent to the state sales tax to help fill budget gaps. Both increases were described as temporary, though Easley and lawmakers have since extended them. In his budget, Easley would keep that half-cent sales tax increase indefinitely. The tax brings in about \$400 million a year. Easley also proposes raising taxes on an array of consumer items, including candy, cigarettes and phone bills. He said he wants to eliminate both the half-cent sales tax and the upper-bracket income tax increase, but can afford only one. Businesses are pushing for change as well. North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry says the personal income tax rate hurts small businesses. Many partnerships and limited liability corporations, among others, pay personal income taxes, not the lower corporate rate.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Both a driver and a passenger could face hit-and-run charges if they willfully switch positions and flee an accident scene in a bill recommended Thursday by a House judiciary panel. The committee spent a week working on the legislation, which has been pushed by dozens of House members following the traffic death of Tar Heel Sports Network commentator Stephen Gates in October 2003. The measure, which now goes to the House floor, would make it a Class H felony if, during an accident where serious injury or death occurs, a passenger switches seats with the original driver and leaves the scene knowing that the accident occurred. The crime would be a misdemeanor if the accident resulted only in significant property damage. The driver at the time of the accident also "may not facilitate, allow, or agree" to let the car be moved from the scene until an officer says the investigation is over. Exceptions remain if someone leaves to seek medical or emergency help. Gates' parents sought the change after their son was struck and killed by an approaching car on an interstate ramp in Orange County while he examined a flat tire. Authorities said a woman was driving the SUV and stopped, but a male passenger took the wheel and drove away. The woman pleaded guilty to failing to report a traffic accident, a misdemeanor. The man was acquitted of a more serious hit-and-run charge. Lawmakers changed the bill's language to ensure a passenger would not be charged if that person had no involvement in the accident or unwillingly left the scene. Pat Gates, Stephen Gates' mother, said after the meeting she was cautiously optimistic that the bill would meet the changes she sought to the law.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Students who injure public school teachers would face stiffer penalties under a bill a Senate Judiciary subcommittee approved Wednesday. The bill says a student who injures a teacher or a school official, like a principal, would be charged with a felony. It's now a misdemeanor charge. Laura Hudson, of the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, said teachers and principals are constantly surrounded by students and their chances of being hurt are much greater. That's why they deserve more protection, she said. In 2002, a Charleston school teacher was permanently injured by a student, Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Columbia, said. Hudson said she didn't have any statistics about teacher injury incidents but said incidents were becoming more violent. The bill goes to the full Senate Judiciary Committee.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Smokers could face a \$20 fine for lighting up in state-owned buildings under a bill that is headed to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. Some state-owned buildings now have lounges and offices where smoking is allowed. The fine for smoking in prohibited locations is a minimum of \$10. On Wednesday, a Medical Affairs subcommittee approved a bill that prohibits smoking in all areas of more public buildings, such as private government offices and teacher lounges. The bill targets secondhand-smoke concerns and is intended to ensure that taxpayer-paid role

models, such as school coaches and teachers, aren't smoking around students, said Sen. Mike Fair, R-Greenville. Opponents said the change would infringe on individual rights. The bill now moves to the full Medical Affairs Committee.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The state Supreme Court is set to decide just how much public information police and prosecutors have to release to the public during investigations. The justices heard arguments Wednesday on whether a prosecutor was right to refuse to give 911 tapes from a North Charleston police shooting to The (Charleston) Post and Courier. The case involved the police shooting of Edward Snowden, who pulled out a gun after four men attacked him in a video store in October 2000. When police arrived, officers said they saw Snowden pointing a gun at people and shot him four times. A clerk at the store was talking to a 911 operator during the entire incident. The newspaper became interested in the tapes eight months after the shooting when prosecutor Ralph Hoisington said they played a factor in his decision not to file charges against the officers. The state Freedom of Information Act requires law enforcement agencies to release public records with a few exceptions, including when releasing the information prematurely would harm the investigation. Hoisington cited that part of the law, saying releasing the tapes would jeopardize a fair trial for the four men who attacked Snowden, who at the time were facing charges. One trial ended in a hung jury before Hoisington decided to drop the charges. The tapes were turned over to The Post and Courier at the end of the first trial, but the newspaper pressed forward with its lawsuit because it wanted a judge to decide whether Hoisington and the city were right to withhold the tapes. Circuit Judge Gerald Smoak agreed with Hoisington and the city and the state Court of Appeals upheld the ruling. John Kerr, a lawyer for the newspaper, said the tapes should have been released soon after the newspaper requested them because they were public documents and did not reveal any confidential information, like the names of police informants or suspects who had not been charged. "Reasonable public scrutiny must be early on especially in a case like this one, where an innocent victim was shot by police officers from North Charleston in a horrible accident," Kerr said. The lawyer for the city, Derk Van Raalte, said the eight-month delay between the shooting and the newspaper's request for the tapes put too much pressure on the defendant's right for a fair trial. "This case was never about whether they were going to get the tapes," Raalte said. Several justices vigorously questioned Raalte, including Chief Justice Jean Toal, who wanted to know if a judge could delay the release of the 911 tapes until trial, whether a case could be made to keep indictments, warrants and other public records secret because they also could jeopardize a fair trial. "If I approve the judge protecting this process by shielding this record, where is the line drawn?" Toal asked. The justices, as is their custom, will rule later.

March 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock Nes

#### DESCRIPTION:

With a horse-drawn carriage as a backdrop, Gov. Mark Sanford urged legislators Wednesday to move South Carolina into the new century with a streamlined government. "We have a structure of government," Sanford said, "that holds us back in accountability, it holds us back in efficiency, it actually holds us back on the health care front as well." It's the second time in a year that Sanford has used animals to drive home a point. Last year, irked by the House's overrides of his budget vetoes, Sanford showed up outside the House with two piglets - named Pork and Barrel - under his arms. The structural problems in state government stem from the state Constitution drafted in 1895, at the end of Reconstruction, Sanford said. It was intended to make the executive branch weak. "I would agree with him that the system needs modernizing," said Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston. But doing that requires consensus and caution, he said. Restructuring, Sanford said, will help governors be more accountable and allow them to address residents' needs better. For instance, Sanford hears from South Carolinians in his regular "Open Door After Four" meetings. "About 60 percent of what they ask, I can't help them with," Sanford said. That's because "large chunks of state government are run by separate islands of government." The House last month approved a version of a restructuring bill that would ask voters to decide whether to eliminate two constitutional offices and replace them with gubernatorial appointees. The Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday approved a bill that rearranges several agencies and programs. "We're doing what we can do," said Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican who has been leading restructuring efforts. Sanford

said neither action goes far enough. The House bill ask voters about eliminating elections for the education superintendent and secretary of state. Sanford wants them to consider the fates of more elected offices now held by the agriculture commissioner and comptroller general while allowing future lieutenant governors to be jointly elected with governors. Sanford also wants about 60 percent of the operations now overseen by the state Budget and Control Board moved to an administrative agency that would answer to the governor. The budget board, made up of the chairmen of the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees, the state treasurer, comptroller general and the governor, oversees much of the state's administrative functions. The Senate's restructuring bill falls short of that. For instance, Sanford wants the offices that handle government purchasing, internal auditing and personnel, as well as a new office of chief information, moved under the governor's control. The Senate Judiciary version of the restructuring legislation leaves those functions under the Budget and Control Board. Martin said senators know the bill doesn't go far enough. But if Sanford is "interested in passing a bill, he might want to hitch his horse and buggy to this one," he said. "If he's not interested in passing a bill, go galloping off in the other direction."

March 4, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said he returned from Iraq determined to reduce the deployment time of National Guard members serving there. DeMint spent four days in Iraq, Kuwait and Germany with a congressional congregation to see how reconstruction funds are being spent. President Bush requested \$82 billion in supplemental funding in February to cover the costs of ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. DeMint, who traveled with Rep. Bob Inglis, R-S.C., Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, spent time with South Carolina troops and met with senior Iraqi leaders and U.S. officials. DeMint said long tours of duty can be especially difficult on guardsmen who, unlike active duty troops, were not expecting and did not plan for such deployments when they signed up for duty. However, DeMint said he was not ready to support a bill co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. That bill would improve health care and retirement benefits for guardsmen and reservists. Citing rising health care costs for members of the military, he cautioned that recruits should not be misled with promises of benefits that could later be financially unsustainable. DeMint said all troops deployed should have complete health care coverage, but he wants to be sure that funding exists for such proposals before promising to back the bill.

March 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Helen Harvey has missed reading the newspaper since her sight deteriorated some four years ago. Without a daily dose of legislative news, she was left feeling "caught in a vacuum," said Harvey, wife of former Lt. Gov. Brantley Harvey. Then about 6 months ago, the 72-year-old Beaufort resident was given a special radio receiver that allows her to tune into the Commission for the Blind's Radio Reading program and listen to news read from papers across the state and region. "It just has made my year to be able to listen to the statewide programs," Harvey said. "The reading of the papers has been my biggest joy because I'm such a news junkie. I've always kept up with what's happening in the Statehouse." But her radio - along with about 4,600 others - could go silent if lawmakers agree to cut funding for the program. The House will debate whether to fund the program when it takes up the state's \$5.8 billion spending plan this week. Gov. Mark Sanford said the state should divert the \$105,000 from the Radio Reading program to other blindness prevention programs. The House Ways and Means Committee, which writes the budget, agreed to the cut. In his executive budget released in January, Sanford said the reading program duplicates the Talking Book Services program at the State Library. "It boils down to identifying programs that are duplicative and trying to consolidate resources in a way that meets the needs that are out there and protects the taxpayers," said Sanford spokesman Will Folks. "These were difficult decisions made after detailed, intensive prioritization of government function." But Beth Jones, the radio program's manager, said the Radio Reading program offers local news and in-depth analysis pieces, while the Talking Book program offers books and magazines on tape. Jones said her program goes beyond the news and allows listeners to follow newspaper staples such as obituaries, Dear Abby columns, editorials and grocery ads. She also includes topical programs - such as health stories. They're items that sighted readers take for granted, Jones said. But the blind have no other source for obtaining these standards - local television stations don't cover them - aside from asking someone else to read to them each day, she said. Jones is one of two full-time employees of the program, which broadcasts 24

hours a day. After suffering other budget cuts over the years, the program relies heavily on volunteers. Randi Olafson has volunteered with the Radio Reading program for 25 years. She says the cost of running the program is a value compared with the service it provides. "It helps them stay truly connected and feel not so isolated," which is especially important for listeners who suffer late-onset impairment and are trying to adjust to a new life, Olafson said. "The radio ... has been very, very helpful," Harvey said. "Those of us who are more shut-in and don't read are able to keep up with what's going on in the state." Folks said that during the governor's public budget hearings, officials from the Commission for the Blind were asked to prioritize their programs. Commissioner Nell Carney testified the Radio Reading program was at the bottom of the list, the governor's spokesman said. Carney said that listeners could find similar access to stories from other sources, such as the Internet. But she says the Radio Reader program is highly valuable to the elderly who don't have access to a computer or are not technologically adept. The Radio Reading program is not the only program for the blind that faces changes in the upcoming budget. Sanford proposed cutting the \$230,000 in state funding from the Business Enterprise Program, which helps blind vendors run concession businesses set up by the state. House budget writers restored that funding, but added a proviso that would set up a fee on the net earnings from vendors. Carney said all but 11 states have a similar fee on vendors that pays for repairs to buildings and equipment. Parnell Diggs, a Myrtle Beach attorney and president of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina, said he's been disappointed in some of the financial decisions made regarding the Commission for the Blind. "This is cold, hard, budget-crunching analysis they're engaging in, but it's disappointing because it will affect the quality of life," for so many blind South Carolinians, Diggs said. Diggs was a member of the governing board of the Commission for the Blind until he was removed by Sanford last month. Diggs thinks he was removed because of his outspoken views against agency cuts and vendor fees. "I decided not to quiet down because I think these programs are important," Diggs said. "I'm just not in tune, or on board with, his agenda." Folks said Diggs was not asked to leave the board because of these specific budget issues. "It was a general philosophical disconnect on the larger note of government restructuring and efficiency at the Commission," Folks said. Sanford seeks board members who are open to new ideas and look out for the best interest of the taxpayer, Folks said. "We have a tremendous amount of respect for Mr. Diggs, but he wasn't a willing participant on those fronts."

March 26, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A bill introduced by a Low Country lawmaker could build university research parks and help attract high-paying jobs, state leaders say. "We need to capitalize on the existence of our research universities," said Rep. Bobby Harrell, one of the leading conceptual and legislative architects behind the initiative. "We can commercialize the research to create high-paying jobs for the benefit of the entire state." The Charleston Republican introduced a bill last week designed to create of innovation centers, or university research parks, that match public research with private businesses. At these centers, which would be located at the major research campuses of Clemson University, Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina, new or existing businesses could help take a scientist's invention to the marketplace. That could bring jobs and corporations - and revenue - to the state. Harrell said the legislation is essential to help transform the state from an old-world economy of textile mills to a knowledge-driven economy with high-technology industries. The bill establishes the innovation centers under a new wing of the South Carolina Research Authority. The authority conducts research on a contract basis for entities like the federal government at three similar research parks across the state. The authority will provide an initial \$3 million to fund the undertaking, an amount that could increase to \$12 million after three years. It follows related measures that created the endowed professorships to attract the top researchers and give universities money to build top-notch laboratories. "If we are going to catch up and surpass North Carolina with what they are doing with their Research Triangle Park, this is the kind of legislation we need." North Carolina faced a similarly bleak economic outlook when lawmakers and state business leaders began planning Research Triangle Park, the nation's largest and most successful university research enterprise. In the 1950s when planning began, North Carolina's per capita income ranked 47th out of 48 states, said Albert Link, a Research Triangle Park historian and an economics professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The turnaround in the years since has led other states to place their economic hopes in the Triangle Park model. The American Association of Research Parks says there are now 195 parks in 40 states employing an average 3,400 people. Still, the development of these projects does not happen overnight, and not all become a resounding success that transforms a state's economy. "It takes a long time to go from seed to harvest," said Link, one of the nation's foremost consultants on

research park development. "The most critical factor is for university administration to get the faculty to be the stakeholders in the success," he added. "And that's a lot easier said than done." Harris Pastides, USC's vice president for research, called the bill the "missing link" that creates a place where universities and the private sector can collaborate for the benefit of the state. "This is a continuum of taking knowledge that is in our universities and making it work for the citizens of South Carolina," he said. With nearly half the House signing on as co-sponsors, Harrell believes the bill will face few obstacles on the floor. "Both Republicans and Democrats have signed on," he said.

March 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

North Carolina's consumer finance industry wants new rules it says will again make it profitable to issue loans for small amounts that have become popular at payday lending outlets statewide. A bill expected before a House committee Tuesday would create new regulations for unsecured installment loans of up to \$1,200. The loans could be made to people who don't have checking accounts, which are needed to borrow from payday lenders. Rep. Thomas Wright, D-New Hanover, the bill's primary sponsor, said constituents who can't or don't want payday loans are going over the border to South Carolina to get these small installment loans. "These people are really trying to rehabilitate their credit," Wright said. Otherwise, he said: "Do you want them to go to a loan shark?" Supporters of the measure would prefer not to be connected to the controversial payday lending industry, which has been under close watch by North Carolina regulators and the advocates in recent years. "This is not a battle or fight between us and the payday lenders," said Charlie Walters, chairman of World Acceptance Corp. of Greenville, S.C.. The company already offers small installment consumer loans in other states and wants to do the same in North Carolina. Consumer advocates, who have opposed payday lending, also are worried the loan procedures and fees proposed by Wright could make these loans overly expensive and possibly predatory. At a payday lender, a customer writes a check for a few hundred dollars - traditionally, enough to get by until pay day. The lender provides the money, often for a very high fee, and waits a couple of weeks to cash the check. The bill would authorize rules for small loans with terms of three months to 18 months. License finance companies would be allowed to require the borrower to pay an "acquisition charge" of up to 10 percent of the loan, plus a monthly handling charge of 2 percent to 4.5 percent for loans. Bill opponents argue the measure would generate loans with effective annual percentage rates above 80 percent - and as high as 150 percent if loans are refinanced after the 61-day minimum. "There's no need to have another loan product that costs two to three times as much," said Al Ripley, a consumer advocate with the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh. The state's 567 consumer finance outlets already can issue loans of up to \$10,000, but the interest rate is capped at 36 percent, in addition to some fees. The cap hasn't changed since 1983. Loan office owners say few people are willing to issue the smallest loans because they're not profitable. R.E. Everett with Time Financial Service in Greenville said his company can only make \$11 per month in interest and fees on a \$600 loan under the current rules. Meanwhile, the cost on an average loan at his 15 locations in the state is nearly \$24 per loan per month. "The bottom line is you can't make money in North Carolina utilizing the current statute and usury law," Walters said. Everett said the consumer finance industry have lost money in nine of the past 10 years, a shortfall that forced many outlets into other loans, such as for cars and furniture. But Ripley questions whether the industry is struggling that much. The push for creating new rules for the short-term installment loans come as the popularity of payday loans remains high, even though state laws regulating the industry expired in 2001. National chains have set up relationships with out-of-state banks to keep offering the loans, the terms of which often last only a few weeks. The state Commissioner of Banks will hold a hearing next month to determine whether Advance America, which operates the most payday outlets in the state, is breaking the law by violating the 36-percent cap limit. Walters added that Wright's bill has some of the most consumer-friendly provisions he's ever seen in his 46 years in the industry, while giving the industry the impetus to offer these loans. But it will be up to legislators to decide whether the bill is consumer friendly. "I'm not sure that these finance companies are having major problems," said Rep. Paul Miller, D-Durham, a member of the House Financial Institutions Committee taking up Wright's measure Tuesday. "I'm not going to be in favor of additional predatory lending laws for North Carolina consumers."

March 30, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The Senate Finance Committee agreed to raise taxes on liquor Tuesday to help cover the transition away from minibottles to free-pour liquor in restaurants and bars. The tax would be applied at the wholesale level and would add 56 cents to each liter of liquor sold. The current per-liter tax is \$1.42, while minibottles, which come in packs of 20, face an additional quarter tax on each bottle, said Tom Sponseller, president of the Hospitality Association of South Carolina. The change, now headed to the Senate floor for debate, would mean that all liquor is taxed at \$1.98 per liter. Supporters of the legislation want to make sure South Carolina loses no tax money as the state moves away from its unique status requiring bars and restaurants use the tiny bottles more commonly used on airlines and in minibars at hotels. Voters approved the change in the state's Constitution in November. Sen. Verne Smith, R-Greer, told the Finance Committee that the tax would be easier to collect from the state's liquor wholesalers than a nickel-a-drink tax that was part of the bill approved earlier this month by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The tax would be paid by five or six liquor wholesalers instead of 3,100 bars and restaurants, Smith said. While the state won't collect more in taxes, some people will pay more and some people will pay less, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said. While liquor likely would cost more at a liquor store, bar and restaurant patrons likely would pay a quarter less per drink than they would have without the change. "This is the easiest thing they could have done," Sponseller said.

## *Attachments*



## *Jobs, Economy, Growth*



**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FOURTH QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays (airs weekly)	5:30 am	BUSINESS WEEK
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**DESCRIPTION:** Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

October 2, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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Description:

Woodruff Road, busy and thriving for the most part. With a new Best buy, a new Dick's sporting goods, and a Barnes and Noble coming to the area the Greenridge shopping center is quickly becoming the trendy place to shop. Now other stores like Harolds and Talbots are planning to leave the Greenville Mall for greener pastures at Greenridge. Fox Carolina's Lidia St. Mark went shopping for some answers at the Greenville Mall. In the last few years the Greenville Mall is looking more and more like Greenville's ghost town. Once busy, many shoppers say the mall is slowly turning into a couple of high end stores and empty parking lots. Shopper Jacqueline Wheeler says, "I don't think the price is efficient enough for them ..people can't afford certain things." Fox Carolina observed that during rush hour on a Friday afternoon the parking lot at the Greenville Mall was almost empty. Alvin Yargin who works nearby at Cracker Barrell says the empty lots are the norm these days. He says, "Ever since I've been working it's been a lot busier than before..the reason it's empty though is all the businesses from down there is taking it away. and that's why business is kinda slow right now here." Many shops have already moved to other locations throughout the area leaving many wondering in store for the Greenville Mall.

October 18, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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Description:

A handful of parents take the offensive in Anderson County. They want to stop the growth of gang activity there before it hits too close to home. [FOX Carolina's Jamie Guirola](#) reports, the gang workshop held Monday at Westside High School was open to anybody in the public and the district sent home fliers with every child. In a high school gymnasium that can fit nearly two thousand people the small crowd of less than a hundred is commended for taking the initiative. Anne Merriweather: "One thing is classroom bullies, peer pressure. We have a lot of drugs in this school and a lot of drugs we don't know about". Parents like Anne Merriweather and Melissa Canada are disturbed by one of this area's most recent and talked about crimes. Melissa Canada: "No, no I always think that like that's too far off". In late August investigators say several young men fired at least 40 bullets into a crowd waiting outside Applebee's restaurant. One of those bullets went through a window and hit a woman in the leg. The senseless shooting believed to be gang related. Canada: "I have a child in middle school here growing up and stuff". Merriweather: "I hope to be able to listen out for my child and especially things going on in the community". There is no limit when it comes to gangs and how they operate. Some, recruiting seven and eight year olds to do their dirty work- and pay the time. Intervention, prevention, and education. That's the formula for reducing gang activity where you live. A.V. Strong: "We should not let society get used to this kind of stuff..." That message coming from a man who grew up in Los Angeles, living the gang life. A.V. Strong was blessed into a gang by his uncle and lost a younger brother to violence. Now he's F.B.I. certified in gang prevention Strong: "We should not be burying our children because of some gang violence". That kind of unwelcome activity, Strong says, can be reduced or eliminated when the whole community steps up to the plate. The F.B.I. says first you need to know what attracts people to gangs. Some attractions are boredom in life, the need for attention and desire to feel important. Then identify the gangs in your area through graffiti or clothing. And tackle the issue by making it harder for gangs to organize. Provide safe, secure after school and recreational programs. It's helpful for concerned parents.

Merriweather: "With me, my children, a lot of the kids like to come to my house. And I hear them just by listening, getting involved, hearing a lot of things they're saying".

December 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Description:

A proposed revitalization project of the Piazza Bergamo gets the thumbs down from Greenville's Design and Preservation Commission. It all had to do with the green... grass that is. The project would have eliminated the green space in the piazza- which sparked a long debate. If you're looking for a patch of green in the heart of Greenville...this is it. Anthony Conway/Downtown Neighbor: "This is the only piece of grass that's significant in the central business district." It sits in the Piazza Bergamo, where a developer wanted to cover it with bricks--and make some other upgrades to this popular gathering area outside the Bank of America building. John Boyd/Downtown Development: "It's old. It needs refreshing. And we want to do that." John Boyd with Downtown Development hoped the design and preservation commission would see things his way and approve an application to refurbish the area---which included getting rid of the grass. Boyd: "It's not an area for the tenants of Bank of America to enjoy solely. We're not putting up any fences or barriers. What we're trying to do is create a much nicer, appealing entrance to the building." Downtown neighbor Anthony Conway has no problem with the improvements....it's all about the green. Conway: "They love the idea of the bridge coming down. They love the idea of opening up the plaza. Our only concern has been to maintain the beauty of downtown with a natural environment." The commission sided with Conway and denied the plan. Conway: "This is the heart of Greenville. This is what makes Greenville unique. It's our green. Let's keep the green in Greenville." Downtown Developers says the fight is not over. It plans to go back to the drawing board to re-submit an application-that everyone can agree on.

December 7, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Description:

The future for the electric city is looking a little brighter. Major renovations are happening in the heart of Anderson in its downtown district. If anyone knows Anderson's downtown area, Phil Silverstein does. His business, Phil's Jewelry, has been around for over forty years. He says, " We've seen several changes... we're going uphill it's wonderful." One of the changes is happening to his neighbor, The Chiquola hotel. It's been around for over a hundred years. In it's hey say, it was the place to be for politicians and celebrities. But for almost a quarter of a century, it sat empty. Now the city is planning to tear it down and turn it into a five million dollar condo and retail development. The city says there will be about 19 condos, several stores, and even a four star restaurant. Mayor Richard Shirley says, " We want to follow a formula that's been successful in Greenville and we're doing that with this type of project." And the city is hoping, if they build it, they will come. Mayor Shirley says, "And having more people, being in the downtown area ..to have people here 24 hours living and playing in downtown will be a good thing." The city says they're expected to close on the deal on December 15th and will take about 14 months to finish the project.

December 8, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Description:

Construction is well underway on the West side of Downtown Greenville, all for the new Greenville Drive baseball stadium. Team officials say progress is being made with the new stadium, so far construction is about three weeks ahead of schedule. The sod for the field is expected to be laid the first of February. The Drive is an affiliate of the Boston Red Sox and the new stadium will appropriately resemble Boston's Fenway Park. "We will have the green monster in left field, the dimensions are identical to Fenway and it's going to be a great place to watch a game, to bring the family out to," says Media Relations Spokesman, Eric Jarinko. The stadium is expected to be ready for opening day on April 6, 2006 when the Drive takes on the Columbus Catfish.

December 20, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Description:

New jobs are coming to Union County. LSP Automotive Systems Limited announced today that it has chosen to build a new site in Union County. The facility will stamp sheet metal for automobile parts for BMW. LSP says it will employ 75-100 to people when the plant opens in 2008. That number is expected to grow to 130 within its first five years of opening.

December 27, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

Description:

It's the familiar after Christmas jingle. The rush is on again, and it wasn't just in the stores. For some, it was out in the parking lot at the Shops at Greenridge. Annette Sullivan says the traffic now is horrible, and she doesn't like being on Woodruff Road. Shopper Jeff Green says the traffic's pretty bad and Brenda Gillespie feels the same but says it's better than before Christmas. Through it all shopper Jeff Green still kept his Christmas spirit, and with a little quick thinking was able to avoid a lot of traffic. That's the traffic situation outside so how did the back-up look inside? Jeff Green says the traffic in the store is heavier than before Christmas. Annette Sullivan says places like Wal-Mart had things under control allowing a quick visit. All the returns, refunds, and big sales seem to be just part of the holidays.

*Attachments*



*Quality of Life*

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2005**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:30 am		FORCE OF FAITH
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 8:30am		IN TOUCH MINISTRIES
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (60:00)

Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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DESCRIPTION: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 10:00am		DAY OF DISCOVERY
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DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

January 6, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

A local business is helping to boost morale for soldiers serving overseas. Liberty Tax Service is collecting used cell phones as part of the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program. The program was started by a thirteen year old girl in Massachusetts. For more details, visit the Cell Phones for Soldiers website.

January 5, 2005	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
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DESCRIPTION:

The Learning Channel is getting ready to debut a new improvement show and one Upstate community will be the star. You may have heard of or seen "Trading Spaces" or "While You Were Out," now a new program will overhaul small towns throughout the country. In two months you'll be able to see the new improvements throughout the City of Laurens, but the program did more than just renovate buildings, it helped bring a community together. Bill Gregory has lived in Laurens all his life and says, "It's just been a great experience for the whole community, I think it's united the community." And "it" is not just one change you'll see in Laurens, rather, six new projects. It's all part of TLC's newest program, "Town Haul." According to President/CEO of the Lauren's County Chamber of Commerce, "They started looking and it narrowed down to Laurens, Newberry and Abbeville....After they went through the process which they used, they chose Laurens to film Town Haul." Lauren's is the second location chosen for the new show and with that choice came six renovation projects in 17 days. But it wasn't just TLC feverishly working, hundreds of volunteers in the community poured their sweat into the projects too. Nine year old Maddison Weirick helped out, "It was pretty fun, the rocks weren't that fun though, because all you got to do was put on the stones." What once was overgrown woods and even a crack house at one time is now a playground, already filled with kids, including Gregory's three grandchildren, "Oh they love it, they call me everyday and say Papa can we go play, so I

just quit work and we come on and play, you'll always remember a day of playing, where you'll never remember a day of working." And there are plenty of other places to play now too, from a new amphitheater along the Little River to a teen center called the "Firewater Cafe." You can sit outdoors near the new mural or sell your goods at the new Farmer's Market. For Willie Foggie, it was 51 years ago he opened his barber shop in a small brick building, but after "Town Haul" showed up, there's a brand new look to the shop. "I've been cutting 51 years and something like this happening is just, seemed like it's unreal, when I came out here and looked at it," says Foggie. Now, Laurens will get some national attention, and Foggie says, "It was a blessing, I told them the Lord must've led them this way." Not just to renovate buildings, but a community as well, "It brought a big great change, brought people together." Many people worked very hard to make the projects a success, you can check it all out on TLC starting March 5th or head on down to Laurens and see everything for yourself in person.

January 9, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Collectors and fans of Southern art and crafts got a rare chance to take home a bit of history as the personal collection of anthropologist and auctioneer Robert Brunk went on the block. Brunk, who opened Brunk Auctions in 1983, started collecting in the 1960s to preserve the crafts that were a part of mountain life. He researched and documented his finds out of concern that no records were being kept of the handmade works of art in the area. The collection included furniture, folk art, pottery, paintings, silver, books, Cherokee baskets and other pieces of mountain-made art. Amassing the records gave Brunk more satisfaction than collecting the items. "It feels great," Brunk said during a short break from the auctioneer's gavel. "It's a decision (to sell his collection) that I made a long time ago, because I wanted to simplify my life. I wanted to document it, but I don't need to own it." Some 400 collectors turned out Saturday for the auction, which continued Sunday with items from other family collections. Sales of the Brunk items Saturday reached "in excess of \$500,000," according to Jerry Israel, an employee at Brunk Auctions. "It's a privilege to own these items," said Susan Kidney of Weaverville, who with her husband, Jay, bid successfully on a cornhusk doll, a kindling basket/magazine rack and a Mace rocking chair. "It means something to me to have them not just because it was a Bob Brunk auction, but because of his love of the mountain culture, which we share," Kidney said. "He's interested in their history and preserving them. He's not just interested in making money. And that makes it special." June Patterson of Arden, a basket maker and collector, was delighted to have won the bid on a set of honeysuckle baskets and a set of miniature oak baskets. And she was delighted that they came from Brunk. "He's a special person, and baskets are close to my heart, so it's nice to have a couple of his pieces," Patterson said. "And it's always nice to have a story behind a basket." Paul Rifkin, who owns Not Your Average Antiques in downtown Asheville, said he admires Brunk and his collection. But he was at Saturday's auction for more pragmatic reasons. "I only buy the best," he said. "And Bob Brunk collected the best."

January 14, 2004                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Disgusting is what one Greenville neighborhood is calling five pieces of paper dumped on their lawns in the Botany Woods neighborhood. They say the papers teach hate and discrimination and could have accidentally been picked up by the neighborhood kids. The documents come from the National Alliance and say things like "don't have sex with blacks, you'll get aids," and "they bring crime, send them home now." Neighbors on Bridgewater Drive are very disturbed that anyone with that much hate actually came in their neighborhood. Marcella Davis says, "It's very disturbing. Especially since you don't know anything about them, who they are. We don't know if they live around here, where they came from its very disturbing." So we decided to do some research and learned the national alliance is spread across the country. These vile, racist papers are bold enough to list the names of black men who have AIDS and their pictures but too cowardly to give a physical address. Only a Post Office Box out of Savannah, GA. Our phone calls to the National Alliance went unanswered but an outgoing message from its office in West Virginia says enough: "At last there is a respective, responsible and uncompromising organization for white people, that organization is the National Alliance. At last, white men and women of dedication and intelligence from all walks of life are allied in an effort to awaken our people and restore our nation to a culture of excellence, freedom and racial integrity." The web doesn't list a National Alliance Chapter here in South Carolina which makes it even

more confusing to figure out how and why these flyers made it on the lawns of this predominantly white neighborhood. The local chapter of the NAACP is naturally outraged, but says whoever did it, did it just in time for the Martin Luther King Holiday. A holiday that could soon be recognized for the first time in Greenville County. Saleem Shabazz of the NAACP says, "I think this is a minority group of few people who feel they have venom they want to spread so they'll come and try and to get other weak-minded people to do these kinds of things." "I thought it was awful, offensive and made my husband and I very upset that someone would leave that garbage on our property," says Davis. The National Alliance is all over the web and from what we can tell has at least 48

January 14, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Dennis Courtland Hayes, acting head of the NAACP, will speak at the annual Martin Luther King Day march and rally at the Statehouse in Columbia on Monday. Others who will speak include former South Carolina Gov. Dick Riley and state Superintendent of Education Inez Tenenbaum, said Dwight James, executive director of the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Together we will send a strong message to the Legislature and the governor that equitable funding for education in South Carolina must become the order of the day," James said Friday. He said the planned prayer service, march and rally - dubbed King Day at the Dome - "will bring much needed change to our government's failed approach to education funding." About 2,000 people attended last year's MLK Day rally, but James would not say how many are expected this year. "If there's one, we'll march," he said. "If there's one million, we will march because we will be marching against injustice." The trial of a lawsuit challenging the way the state funds education ended last month in Manning. The judge has not yet ruled in the suit, which claims the state doesn't give students in poor, rural districts the minimally adequate education they are entitled to by law. Gov. Mark Sanford has proposed a tax break for parents who send their children to private schools or home school them. Supporters say the system would allow parents to choose the best education for their children; opponents argue it is a backdoor voucher system. "That's one of our concerns. Of course, the issue of equity funding for schools has been around for a long time," James said. Sanford will be in Texas next week continuing his U.S. Air Force Reserve training. "Hopefully, unlike President Bush, the governor does read the papers and look at television. And if he does that, he will see the coverage," said the Rev. Joseph Darby, the first vice president of the state NAACP. James said marchers will call attention to disparities in health care and criminal justice as well as "our concern over the continued display of the Confederate battle flag in a sovereign position at the Statehouse." Participants will bring attention to "the basic disrespect of African Americans and people of color and the poor in South Carolina," he added. "We are marching for equal justice."

January 15, 2005                      10:00pm                      The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Martin Luther King Jr. would've turned 76 years old today. Most of the country celebrates his legacy with a national holiday but not in Greenville County. Winner of the noble peace prize, Dr. King's style of non-violent protest was the dominant force in the civil rights movement and yet Greenville County will not officially honor him with a paid holiday saying it could cost the county thousands of dollars. The peaceful demonstration was led by the Greenville born civil rights activist Jesse Jackson on downtown Greenville's Main Street. According to Jackson, "Ignoring the holiday is ignoring his legacy on fairness." Jackson also says the push is not just about African Americans and, "the whole South benefited because Dr. King helped pull the cotton curtain down." County Councilwoman Lottie Gibson believes the tide is turning in Greenville. She said, "Well it makes me feel that I'm in the struggle, this too will pass and it will happen." She's referring to the recent November election in which voters elected new council members that tilted the majority in favor of a holiday. Popular television Judge Greg Mathis also marched today hoping to use his notoriety to influence a change in Greenville politics. He said, "We are here to try and unite Greenville County, South Carolina with the rest of the country in honoring Dr. King and celebrating the legacy of unity and equality that Dr. King stood for.." Marcher Ulysses Sweeney says recognizing the holiday is most important for his children. "That's the main reason I'm here so my children have this without it being an issue, so they can have a holiday in this county and help unify the county." Greenville City council says it would cost the tax payers about \$130,000 a

year for the next ten years to officially recognize King's birthday but a lot of people think the chance to honor the man who proved one person can change the world is priceless.

January 31, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Family members say a Buncombe County woman died in a sledding accident this weekend. Jill Waddell's husband, Tim, says his wife died yesterday afternoon while sledding behind her home. Jill Waddell went down the hill on a sled behind her home, ahead of her daughter, according to her husband, Tim Waddell. As she reached the bottom she hit an above-ground manhole and suffered a head injury. The Skyland fire department responded, but was unable to help Waddell. Along with her husband, Jill Waddell leaves behind two young children, 3 and 8 years old. Waddell was an organ donor, and her husband said her organs have saved four lives.

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

He can still feel the chill. It wasn't from the cold. The tingling uneasiness came from being in a place where he knew he wasn't wanted. "The response was very, very cold and very dangerous," said the Rev. Dr. Charles R. Mosley, recalling the day in 1960 when he and several of his Shaw University classmates decided they would stage a sit-in at a diner in Raleigh. "There were agitators and hecklers. There were some very unfavorable comments using the N-word. They were determined we were not going to be welcomed." Mosley and about 200 Shaw students coordinated their efforts with those of other college students in Greensboro. On Feb. 1, 1960, the "Greensboro Four" - Ezell Blair, Jr. (now Jibreel Khazan), David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil - began a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter. The protest technique spread to other sites throughout the state, garnering worldwide media attention and eventually spurring desegregation of public facilities. But at the beginning of the movement, success seemed far, far away. "Rather than serve us, the stores would close the lunch counters," said Mosley, a Kenilworth resident and pastor of Nazareth First Baptist Church in Asheville for 30 years. "They would ignore us and say, 'We're not serving at this time,' or, 'The counter is closed.' We would stay for awhile, and then we'd come back later." Mosley, like most of his friends, was arrested and charged with trespassing and obstructing justice, charges that were later dropped. In many ways, the courts were the least of their worries. The idea among the agitators was not only to start a fight but also to intimidate the protesters. "The most intimidating agitating was done with threats - what they would do to us if we persisted in what we were doing at those counters," said Mosley, 66. "I was frightened, knowing what had happened in Alabama and Mississippi .. All of this was quite uncertain to us, but we felt we had a mission we would fulfill, even if it cost us our lives. Even if we would've become victims of violence or even a casualty, we felt the price was worth it to be free." Dwight Mullen, a political science professor at UNC Asheville, says it's easy to forget how charged the social climate was in 1960. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the civil rights movement, pushing for change in a South still controlled by Jim Crow laws that kept blacks from receiving equal treatment in nearly all aspects of life. "The Greensboro sit-ins began about six years after the Brown v. Board of Education decision that ended segregation, that said it was unconstitutional," Mullen said. "So you're talking about a pretty long time before the universities began being affected. These were students who were actually following the example of what King had done with the Montgomery bus boycotts." This was also during the time of the "Freedom Riders," groups of blacks and whites who rode buses throughout the South, carrying a message of desegregation by trying to integrate bus stops. They were frequently attacked and beaten by angry crowds. In short, times were tense when the Greensboro Four and the other students including Mosley began their lunch counter sit-ins. "Every place responded differently, but everyone knew that one of the things that could happen was physical harm," Mullen said. "The Ku Klux Klan was very clear about that at the time." Mosley and his fellow students were well aware of the dangers. "We would walk in groups, at least two of us," Mosley said. "We were given directions not to respond to the agitators or hecklers, to ignore them, and by all means to refrain from getting into physical confrontations." The students persisted, juggling their academic coursework with social protest. Mosley was a double major in religion and social studies. In a matter of months, the whites running the lunch counters relented. The black men were served just like their white counterparts. "I was one of the first ones seated," Mosley recalled. "It felt like a door was open, although you could feel the tension - the waitresses were unfriendly. We felt like we had won at least one battle when the counters started serving us. I was there when the shackles fell



off and they were demanded to serve us." Mostly they ordered coffee. Truthfully, they didn't enjoy the taste of it that much, but they savored its meaning. To this day, though, Mosley isn't much of a coffee drinker. "We prevailed," Mosley said. "The reason, truthfully, I do not drink coffee today is because I thought that coffee was so hot it had come straight out of hell." Mullen says the lunch counter sit-ins rank in the "top five" of Civil Rights social protests, right up there with the Montgomery bus boycott, the integration of Little Rock High School in Arkansas and the Freedom Riders. "The folk didn't know how historic these things would turn out to be," Mullen said. "Later on in the movement, say by '65, folk were really understanding the role the media played in all this. But in 1960 there was no reason to think this would cause worldwide attention and turn out to be a landmark." North Carolina, and particularly tourist-dependent Asheville, were well aware of the negative reaction much of the country had had to racial strife in the deep South. The policy favored by whites of essentially stalling integration as long as possible, called "gradualism," began to yield to true desegregation, all because of college students who wanted to be served at lunch counters. "For North Carolina, it really did set an example," Mullen said, "because the (store owners) made a decision of keeping the lunch counters open. And they knew if they kept them open, they were pretty much expected to be desegregated." Mosley, who graduated from Asheville's all-black Stephens-Lee High School, in 1957, also saw the changes. "I think the foundation of doors opening began with the student sit-ins," he said. "As the counters opened, we found other doors opening, too." But Mosley never rested on those laurels, and he believes blacks still must fight complacency and remain especially vigilant in voting. "I still think we have problems in housing, in lack of employment, in hungering for achievement," Mosley said. "There should be equality for all people, and I still think that there's a degree of segregation today, but she comes in a different form. She wears a different mask."

February 2, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The Greer Commission of Public Works has decided to no longer hand out free calendars with pictures of religious figures. The utility reviewed the calendars, which include pictures of Jesus, the Apostles, angels and cherubs, after a Greer resident complained to the American Civil Liberties Union. "Very reluctantly, and in the interest of harmony, we have determined to discontinue the use of a religious theme because of the growing diversity in our area," the commission said in a statement Tuesday. The utility will continue to hand out calendars with what it calls a "uniting community theme." The letter from the ACLU also asked the commission to see if prayers were required at meetings. "The Commission has never and will never require any employee or officer to pray, or participate in any religious practice, belief, or non-belief," the commission said. "Any such activity must be done on a voluntary and individual basis."

February 3, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

It was one of the world's biggest disasters ever, the tsunami that hit in South Asia. According to scripture, "there shall be signs... upon the earth... the sea and the waves roaring." Jeremiah Jones from Seneca said, "You definitely feel some sense of there's signs, warning signs from God." Other disasters, like the hurricanes in Florida and the mudslides in California are being considered signs from above. Here is the scripture, "the Earth and everything in it will be laid bare." And this is what Gail Lusk of Seneca said, "I do feel like we're in our last days. I do feel like the Lord is coming and I think that it won't be too long." Then, there is the terrorism and the Iraq War. These are today's headlines. But are they Bible Prophecies? A sign of the end, or at least, the beginning of the end. Reverend Matt Williams of Grace Church said, "You get alot of questions about this war, that event, what does it mean in the big picture of things?" Reverend Tony Boyce from Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church says we appear to be closer to the end. "Jesus teaches us that earthquakes, wars, rumors of wars are the beginning of the end." At LifeWay Christian Store, the bookshelves are filled with titles about the world's climate. Customers are picking up titles, including "What On Earth Is Going On?" and "What's Next?" According to Bryan Boone, the store manager, "As these events unfold, we're seeing even more people coming in looking for some answers." We

spoke to several local religious leaders and got their opinions. Dr. Paul Gaehring at Redemption World Outreach Center said, "I think we're obviously moving closer to the end of the age. We've never had a 9/11 before, we've never had an Iraq war of this nature and terrorism world-wide." Bob Jones University Seminary Dean, Dr. Steve Hankins said this: "the reason there are wars, the reason there is not harmony between people, nations... is the phenomenon of sin." But if we are seeing the signs, when do local religious leaders believe the return of Christ will happen? Reverend Dave Steane of First Presbyterian Church in Greenville said, "Even though Jesus said things like... watch for the signs... the ultimate decision on when the end will happen or when Jesus will return is completely up to God." When might this happen, and how can followers be ready? According to Dr. Steve Hankins of Bob Jones University, "No human being has the perspective or knowledge to know whether a present catastrophe is a direct act of God's wrath or it's the world just not working right, the physical earth because it's convulsed by virtue or the presence of sin." And, Dr. Paul Gaehring from Redemption World Outreach, "None of us can set a date or a timetable for end time prophecy or events, but if we're ready every day, then we don't have to worry about the details of that too much." Many pastors told us they don't focus as much on end-times, but what congregations can do in the wake of a disaster, like the tsunami. Reverend Dave Steane of First Presbyterian Church in Greenville said, "We tend not to spend alot of time wondering how every single event ties into a specific Bible prophecy, but the question is how do we relate to these events now that they've happened." Responding with kindness and generosity to those around the World. Local religious leaders say that is an opportunity to teach Christianity and their message is to be ready for God's return, by accepting him as Lord and Savior. Reverend Matt Williams of Grace Church explains, "It's going to be a form of judgment when he comes back, looking for those who are faithful and people are going to be caught off-guard so the point is to not be caught off guard to be faithful until his return." And Christians are reminded from the pulpit, be ready for end-times, whenever they may happen. Dr. Paul Gaehring of Redemption World Outreach said, "Our view is nobody knows exactly when it's gonna end, so let's do everything we can every day to make a difference."

February 4, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Are you tired of being afraid to let your children play in the front yard because of people speeding? If you thought Dead Man's Curve only existed in the movies, you'd be wrong! Several people have already lost their lives speeding around a curve located on Pine Knoll Drive in Greenville County. Not even a mile away from Wade Hampton High School, one girl lost her life when the car she was in smashed into a telephone poll located in John Quattlebaum's front yard. "They'll come down here doing 55 or 60 even more especially on the bad curve they've had several wrecks ...My children and now my grandchildren, I won't let them play in the front yard." Armed with a police calibrated radar gun, we decided to check it out for ourselves. Ten out of ten cars drove way above the 25 mile per hour speed limit around the curve. Unfortunately our findings didn't surprise Pine Knoll Drive's mail carrier Don Jones one bit. "It's a nightmare, ...Many times I went to look in my rear view mirror and I'm thinking well they're going to get me this time." One resident near the curve replaced his mailbox eight times and his neighbor just down the street fears for her life doing yard work! She says, "They'll be going fast and cut through our yards... they go down this road tremendously fast." The speed limit goes up to 30 miles per hour in front of her house but no one we clocked stayed with the speed limit. If you or anyone you know is having problem with speeders in your residential neighborhood, please don't hesitate to let us know so, we at Fox Carolina, can film the speeders in your area and show your local police.

February 7, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

587 was supposed to be a routine job. Instead all passengers on-board Spartanburg Regional One Helicopter died. Less than a year since the deadly accident and the Regional One medical team is showing it is still doing what it loves most. All the while, remembering those who died in July of last year with a new helicopter. It is an impressive machine that can travel as fast as 150 miles per hour for hundreds of miles at a time. On board, sophisticated

technology that tracks the choppers path and stabilizes patients in critical condition. But even more impressive to the flight crew who will fly in it are the names of other flight crew members attached on the front. It was a Tuesday when Bob Giard, Glenda Tessnear, and David Beacon died instantly after responding to a trauma patient on Interstate 26 in Newberry County just before sunrise. When the patient was picked up, the helicopter lifted off-- then suddenly fell out of the sky into a heavily wooded area. The new helicopter bearing names was christened with a prayer that will make every flight and asks the angels in the air to be there guide. The new Regional One will serve many counties including Cherokee, Laurens, Polk, Rutherford, Union and Chester counties.

February 11, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Lucy and Buddy have been living on Forrester Drive for almost forty years. But a couple of years ago everything changed. They've always enjoyed the simple things. Playing with their dog, "His Majesty Lord Chipperdale" or "Chipper Jones" if you know him, and visiting the neighborhood donkey who lives just across the street. Buddy says, "Yea I like to go over there and feed him and talk to him, he's a lot of fun." But saying "hello" to Tanner the donkey has become a dangerous venture these days. Lucy Merritt says, "It's really scary, We just can't tolerate this." Speeders have made it too risky for the Merritts to even cross the street. Buddy said, "I put a turn around here in the yard to back out in the busy highway." It's become too dangerous for him to even get the mail. "Had to move this mailbox over here because they were about to hit me crossing the road." They asked for our help to do something because Lucy said, "I want the police to control it more, get out here and pick them up." We took our radar gun to see for ourselves and discovered that Lucy and Buddy were right. Ten out of ten drivers drove way above the posted limit on Forrester Drive, even ignoring the \$200 fine sign. Lucy blames recent developments in her area for contributing to the speeding problem. She says, "It's really gotten worse since the BI-LO Warehouse went up. They're building that Autopark there and traffic is getting worse. It's getting really frightening." Lucy would love to give the speeders a piece of her mind. She said, "You don't want me to say it, do you?"

February 13, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Loved ones of about 100 Asheville-based Army reservists say they are preparing for more sleepless nights as the unit prepares for 12 to 18 months in Afghanistan. Tina Cooper's eyes filled with tears Saturday as she prepared to say goodbye to her 22-year-old son, Nathan Shane Jones, a member of the of the 391st Engineer Battalion's Alpha Company. "This is the second time we've had to do this," she said. "I guess this one's not as scary. But once they've been gone once, you know what to expect. You know that hurry-up-and-wait; you know you're in for a lot of sleepless nights." The soldiers, all men, were mobilized officially Saturday in a ceremony at the Walter Hatch Lee Army Reserve Center. They were to ship out Sunday to Fort Bragg for more training before departing for Afghanistan. Tammy Walsh, wife of Sgt. William Scott Nelson, has done this before, too. Nelson was deployed to Iraq and arrived home just six days before their second child was born 19 months ago. "I think it's a little easier this time," said Walsh, co-leader of the Family Readiness Group. "But that doesn't mean it's easy." This is the first deployment for Pfc. Eric Guerrero, 21, who was married in June. His wife, Salmoe, is a member of the National Guard and will work in Raleigh while her husband is away. "It's a little scary, I guess," he said before the ceremony. "But I'm proud to be going." For nearly an hour during the ceremony, community and military leaders thanked the men and their families for their service. "It's very important to understand that you are a part of history," said Maj. Gen. Alan D. Bell, commander of the 81st Regional Readiness Command, of which the 391st is a part. "You will look back on this time 20, 30 years from now and you will see a free Middle East and know you had a part in it." Capt. David. M. Boeke, commander of Alpha Company, reminded the troops that for each one of them, about 10

people were there to see them off. "You have my admiration and my thanks," he said to the families. "These are the people who allow us to sow the seeds of democracy in faraway places."

February 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The 391st Engineering Battalion said goodbye to their families and loved ones with a salute from the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club. The bikers came from across the Carolinas, many riding more than 180 miles to reach York, South Carolina for the big send-off. The Battalion consisted of members from the upstate. The goodbyes were very emotional for both the troops and the veterans who will never forget the time they served in the jungles of Vietnam, or the return to the United States. "You know, war is not popular but the people that go fight the war need our support. You might not like the war, you might not like what's going on, but please support the soldiers," "Smurf," Vietnam Veteran's Motorcycle Club said. "Smurf" and the motorcycle club know what raced through the minds of the soldiers as they left their spouses and children behind. The veteran soldiers said they didn't want the troops to come back to what they returned to. "We're giving them something that none of us got when we left and hopefully, we'll be here when they come back to give them what we never received when we got back. It's a welcome home for a job well done," said "Smurf." The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club was asked by York's Chamber of Commerce to escort the troops. Many of the 500 troops in the 391st Engineering Battalion are from the upstate. "We want these boys to get what the Vietnam Vets didn't get. We appreciate the Vietnam Vets coming to honor soldiers," said Teri Carpenter, York Chamber of Commerce.

February 18, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

Maria Medes loves to ride her bike but her father worries that a ride up the block could be her last. Her father Charles Medes says, "She does not leave the cul de sac and that's generally the opinion of most people in the neighborhood." The Medes live right off of Becky Gibson Road in Greer where the speed limit is 25 miles per hour but Charles Medes says, "The traffic is rather treacherous and somewhat unnerving." Fed up, Charles Medes emailed Fox Carolina so we took out our police calibrated gun to see just how bad the speeding really is. We found that cars generally went ten miles above the posted speed limit. While we were tracking speeders, we ran into Kathy Thorfinsson crusading to stop speeders herself. She says, "We're trying to get a petition up to get speed humps put on our roads because the speeding traffic through here is getting outrageous." Linda McNamara is one of many who signed the petition. She won't even let her son in the yard. She says, "I've got a five year old, I can't let him out in the yard without holding his hand cause they speed up and down the road. He's in special education class. He has to ride a special bus and his bus driver speeds up and down this road and that's ridiculous! But for little Maria Medes, the solution is simple. She says, "I think they should slow down."

February 19, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

The world witnessed the devastation as each new piece of video played and within hours one of the first to respond were the US Special Operations Airmen stationed at Kadena Airbase in Japan. One of the Airmen is Greenville's own Lieutenant Colonel David B. Mobley. His mother says her son knew since he was a little boy that he wanted to fly. "And he took off his little sneakers, hung them over his little ears and he was flying an airplane so his career started rather early in the first grade." For three weeks the airmen worked around the clock loading airplanes with over one million pounds of medical relief supplies bound for south Asia but the Lieutenant's father told us his son says even more help is needed. The Tsunami disaster is one of the many special operations Mobley has responded to in his twenty year career but it's by far the worst. But for this marina, it's more than just a job, it's who

he is. Lt. Col. says, "I'm just glad to play a small part in this huge operation, these guys did a good job." And sometimes, his job can be hard for his parents too. His mother Olive Mobley says, "David, I say, I'm real worried about you. He says, Mother I signed to give away my life to my country, so please don't worry about me, just pray for me."

February 26, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

A lot of people go to the mall to shop but today Britney Pridemore came to fulfill a dream. She says, "It's like a dream you have when you're a little kid, this has been my dream since I was seven years old." Although she shares the same name as a famous pop star, she loves Christian music. "Christian music has a good message, it's not about sex, drugs, and gang violence. It gives a good message about Jesus Christ." Today VHM Record Label held a talent search at the West Gate Mall in Spartanburg. Vice President Nicole Beach was one of several judges. She says having a good voice is not the only thing VHM looks for. "We love original music who can sing and talk because they're people out there who need to hear the same kind of thing." VHM is a non-profit record label with one purpose according to it's vice president. Nicole Beach says the label began because, "we were wondering how we can bring a positive influence to some of those trouble areas. We feel the radio waves is the way to do it." Emily Tucker also competed for the chance to win one thousand dollars and she says Christian music is the only music for her. "I feel that God has blessed me with a gift to sing so I want to sing back to him and give glory to his name." Britney's mom, Dawn Pridemore, believes God blessed her daughter as well. "I am very proud of her, very very proud."

March 14, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

#### DESCRIPTION:

In an effort to prevent sexual abuse in churches in South Carolina, leaders are asking would-be volunteers to undergo criminal background checks. The request has drawn mixed reactions. "Those who are really serious about it will submit to it," said the Rev. Curtis Johnson of Valley Brook Outreach Baptist Church. "Those who really want to work with the children understand." Seven cases of forceable rape were reported in South Carolina houses of worship in 2003, the latest year for which figures are available from the State Law Enforcement Division. One case of forceable sodomy and 10 cases of forceable fondling also were reported, the figures show. Many churches are requiring the background checks and implementing strict rules and training programs to protect children and the church from lawsuits. However, SLED's background check shows only crimes committed in South Carolina. If someone with a child molestation history moves here from another state, their prior crimes wouldn't show up except on a FBI records check, said bureau spokesman Steve Fischer. The FBI can't do checks on church volunteers because it's not allowed by state law, church officials say. That concerns Gayle Quay, who heads children's ministries at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville. Her church has about 500 volunteers in various programs. The church uses a program called Safe Sanctuary, developed by the national denomination. "There are some people who think we can just trust everybody in the church, we don't have to check on them," said Joy Thornburg Melton, a United Methodist minister and lawyer in Atlanta who helped develop the program. "But the fact is 80 percent or more of all child abuse is carried out by people the victims know and trust the most." There have been several recent sex abuse cases in South Carolina. A Greenville-based evangelist was sentenced to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty last year to five counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor and four counts of lewd act on a child. In 2001, a minister pleaded guilty to sexually abusing 23 children in his office at the Abbeville Baptist Association. And a suspended Catholic priest who had served at two Greenville churches and was facing sex charges in Charleston bled to death in his home in 2003. The Catholic Diocese of Charleston, which includes the entire state, adopted a policy on sexual misconduct allegations in 2003 that requires background checks for all church personnel. Some agree the background checks are a good move. "I think it's a fantastic idea because we know that predators that prey on children try to get into an area where they have access to children," said Donna Roy, director of the Greenville Rape Crisis and Child Abuse Center. But some say the checks alone aren't enough. "We keep our doors locked at all times, and I go around and check the rooms often," said Emogene Daniels, director of Tabernacle Day Care Center in the Upstate. "They never know when I'm going to pop in."

March 15, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The family of an Anderson College student who died from heart failure almost three years ago has settled a wrongful death lawsuit with the hospital that treated him for \$1.38 million. Cedric Barovero, a native of Buenos Aires, died after a pickup game of basketball on campus in April 2002. His mother, Lisa Barovero, sued Anderson Area Medical Center and doctors who had run tests on her son five months before his death because she said they failed to detect a congenital heart condition that led to his death. An autopsy found Barovero's heart was nearly twice the normal size. The case was settled after a daylong, emotional mediation session, attorney Dale Akins said. The doctors named in the lawsuit were dismissed and the hospital's insurance company will pay the settlement, Akins said.

March 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A federal judge has refused to reconsider how much money should be paid to the attorneys who arranged a settlement for people who lost their money when Carolina Investors went bankrupt. Bob Pierce asked U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. to give him more time to make his case to reduce the fees, but the judge refused at a Monday hearing. Pierce was one of more than 8,000 investors who lost \$278 million when Carolina Investors went under two years ago. A civil settlement gave the investors about 18 cents back for each dollar they put in the Upstate company. The lawyers who negotiated the settlement received about \$9 million. Pierce currently does not plan to appeal the ruling, according to his lawyer, David Wheeler.

March 28, 2005

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A conservative economic group is paying for a television ad criticizing U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham for his support of an idea to increase the amount of income subject to Social Security taxes. The ads from the Washington-based Club for Growth are set to air across South Carolina starting Tuesday. Graham, R-S.C., has received plenty of attention as he tries to broker a deal between Republicans and Democrats on overhauling Social Security. While some of Graham's proposals, like private accounts, are supported by the Club for Growth, the group does not like Graham's idea of raising the income cap from \$90,000 to \$150,000 to help pay for the hefty costs of creating private Social Security accounts. The group thinks raising the cap conflicts with conservative ideals of lower taxes and smaller government. The members want South Carolina voters to know they think the plan is a tax increase, said Henry McVicker of Shirley & Banister, the Virginia public relations firm hired to roll out the spot. McVicker said the Graham ad will run for enough time to make sure it is widely viewed. Its cost was not immediately available. Graham's office released a statement Monday pointing out his support for changing Social Security has been known since before he was elected to the Senate in 2002. "His opponents spent more than \$3 million dollars attacking him for holding that view, but he didn't back down one inch. He wasn't intimidated then, and he's not going to be intimidated now," the statement read. The ad is likely meant as a warning to Graham, since he doesn't face re-election for three years, Winthrop University political science professor Scott Huffmon said. The Club for Growth has 9,000 members and raised more than \$10 million for candidates in the 2004 elections. The group gave Graham \$2,500 when he first ran for Senate in 2002.